

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 222

(Dorchester County Delegation)

Commerce and Government Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Dorchester County - County Commissioners - Salaries and Compensation

This bill increases the salary of the President of the Dorchester County Commissioners from \$12,000 to \$15,000 and increases the salaries of other county commissioners from \$12,000 to \$14,000 beginning with the next term of office. The bill also provides that county commissioners may receive other compensation in addition to the compensation received for expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Dorchester County expenditures would increase by \$7,500 in FY 2003 and by \$15,000 in FY 2004 and each year thereafter. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The County Commissioners of Dorchester County earn an annual salary of \$12,000. The county commissioners are not entitled to any other compensation except for expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which begins January 2003 for the Dorchester County Commissioners.

Background: The salaries of the County Commissioners of Dorchester County were last changed in 1991 when the salaries were increased from \$10,000 to \$12,000 (Chapter 86 of 1989).

Local Fiscal Effect: In Dorchester County, the term of office for county commissioners are not staggered, accordingly all five members will begin a new term in January 2003. Dorchester County expenditures would increase by \$7,480 in fiscal 2003 for additional salary (\$5,500) and fringe benefits (\$1,980). This reflects salary adjustments for a six-month period (January 2003 – June 2003). Beginning in fiscal 2004, county expenditures would increase by \$14,960, which reflects annualization.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill was introduced at the 2001 session as HB 1039. The bill was approved by both houses of the General Assembly, but was vetoed by the Governor at the request of the sponsor and the Dorchester County Commissioners.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2002
ncs/hlb

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