

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1382

(Delegates Vallario and Lee)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Court Personnel - District Court Bailiffs - Compensation

This bill requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to review bailiffs' compensation and report to the General Assembly by December 15, 2002 on its findings and recommendations.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirement could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: All but two District Court bailiffs are contractual employees of the Judiciary. Contractual bailiffs are not entitled to certain fringe benefits such as paid leave, subsidized health insurance, retirement benefits, and 401(k) plans, but do receive paid holidays depending upon the number of hours worked.

Contractual bailiffs are paid an hourly rate based upon their experience, supervisory responsibilities, and whether or not the individual has a Maryland State Special Police Commission. The starting rate is based upon a grade 5, step 1 position in the Judiciary salary schedule (hourly rate of \$11.49), and the most senior supervisory position is based upon a grade 8, step 1 position with an hourly rate of \$13.92. Unlike permanent employees however, contractual bailiffs do not receive annual increment or step increases.

Because the position requires previous law enforcement experience (including graduation from a recognized police or law enforcement training academy) and the ability to acquire a Maryland State handgun permit and a Maryland State Special Police Commission, many bailiffs are retired State or local police or former security guards. The Judiciary advises that there are currently 164 full-time and 40 part-time contractual bailiffs.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 872 of 2001 sought to provide full-time District Court bailiffs with paid annual and sick leave. The bill received an unfavorable report from the House Appropriations Committee.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2002
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