

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 274

(Caroline County Delegation)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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Caroline County - State's Attorney - Salary

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This bill sets the salary of the State's Attorney of Caroline County at 80% of the salary of a judge of the District Court of Maryland beginning with the next term of office in January 2003.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** State retirement expenditures would increase by \$550 in FY 2003 and by \$1,100 in FY 2004 and each year thereafter.

**Local Effect:** Caroline County expenditures would increase by \$12,500 in FY 2003 and by \$25,000 in FY 2004 and each year thereafter.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The current salary of the State's Attorney of Caroline County is \$70,000. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which begins January 2003 for the Caroline County State's Attorney.

**Background:** The salary of the State's Attorney of Caroline County was last changed in 1995 (Chapter 397 of 1994) when the salary was increased from \$55,000 to \$70,000. Salaries of State's Attorneys in 15 counties are tied to the salaries of judges. As shown in **Exhibit 1**, the salaries are tied to District Court judges in 13 counties and to circuit court judges in two counties.

## Exhibit 1

<u>County</u>	<u>Percentage of Judge's Salary</u> <u>(of a District Court judge's salary, unless otherwise noted)</u>	
Allegany*	90%	
Anne Arundel**	100%	(of a circuit court judge's salary as of 12/31/02, increasing 3% per year beginning in 2004)
Baltimore County	100%	(of a circuit court judge's salary, increasing 5% annually)
Calvert	90%	
Carroll	80%	
Cecil	95%	
Charles	90%	
Dorchester	80%	
Frederick	80%	
Howard	100%	
Queen Anne's	90%	
St. Mary's	90%	
Washington	90%	
Wicomico	90%	
Worcester	90%	(except that the county commissioners may set a higher salary)

\* In Allegany County, the deputy State's Attorneys must receive not less than 80% of the salary of the State's Attorney.

\*\*In Anne Arundel County, the deputy State's Attorneys must receive not less than 90% of the salary of the State's Attorney and the assistant State's Attorneys must receive not less than 80% of the State's Attorney's salary.

### *District Court Judges Salary*

The salary for a District Court judge is currently set at \$111,500.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The State is responsible for making the retirement contributions for the State's Attorney of Caroline County. Based on the State's fiscal 2003 contribution rate of 5.74% of salary, expenditures would increase by \$551 in fiscal 2003, which reflects the State's contribution for the six months of fiscal 2003 after the new term of office begins. Future expenditures would increase by \$1,100 in fiscal 2004 and each year thereafter.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The salary of the Caroline County State's Attorney would increase from \$70,000 to \$89,200 beginning in January 2003.

Caroline County expenditures would increase by \$12,480 in fiscal 2003 for additional salary (\$9,600) and fringe benefits (\$2,880). This reflects salary adjustments for a six-month period (January 2003 – June 2003). Beginning in fiscal 2004, county expenditures would increase by \$24,960, which reflects annualization.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 30, 2002  
ncs/hlb Revised - Correction - March 7, 2002  
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