

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 365
Judiciary

(Delegate Walkup, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Kent County - State's Attorney - Salary

This bill sets the salary of the State's Attorney for Kent County at 70% of the salary of a judge of the District Court of Maryland beginning with the next term of office in January 2003.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Kent County expenditures would increase by \$11,300 in FY 2003 and by \$22,600 in FY 2004 and each year thereafter.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Kent County State's Attorney is paid an annual salary of \$60,000. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which begins January 2003 for the Kent County State's Attorney.

Background: The salary of the Kent County State's Attorney was last changed in 1994 (Chapter 353, Acts of 1994) when the State's Attorney's salary was increased from \$47,500 to \$55,000 with \$1,250 annual increments through 1998. 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

Percentage of Judge's Salary

County (of a District Court judge's salary, unless otherwise noted)

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.

Local Fiscal Effect: The salary of the Kent County State's Attorney would increase from \$60,000 to \$78,050 beginning in January 2003.

Kent County expenditures will increase by \$11,281 in fiscal 2003 for additional salary (\$9,025) and benefits (\$2,256). This reflects salary adjustments for a six-month period (January 2003 - June 2003). Beginning in fiscal 2004 and each year thereafter, county expenditures would increase by \$22,563, which reflects annualization.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 11, 2002
mld/hlb Revised - Updated Information - May 1, 2002

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