

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

Senate Bill 477

(Senator Currie)

Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

**State Police Retirement System - Retirees - Reemployment as Sheriffs or State's Attorneys**

This pension bill exempts retirees of the State Police Retirement System from the prohibition against members of the system accepting a retirement allowance or pension allowance from another pension or retirement system supported wholly or in part by the State, if the retiree is serving as a sheriff or State's Attorney for a county that participates in the State Retirement and Pension System (SRPS).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2002 and applies retroactively to retirees serving in these offices on or after January 4, 1999 and still serving on July 1, 2002.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** State pension liabilities would increase by approximately \$454,000, resulting in increased employer pension contributions of approximately \$25,300 (all funds) beginning in FY 2004, and increasing 5% per year thereafter based on actuarial assumptions.

(in dollars)	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF/SF/FF Exp.	0	25,300	26,500	27,900	29,300
Net Effect	\$0	(\$25,300)	(\$26,500)	(\$27,900)	(\$29,300)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Current Law:** A retiree of the State Police system is not entitled to receive a retirement allowance or pension allowance from another pension or retirement system supported wholly or in part by the State.

**Background:** Retirees of the State Police Retirement System who receive a service retirement allowance or vested allowance are subject to an earnings limitation only if they are reemployed *on a temporary basis* with a participating employer of the SRPS. Unlike other plans within the SRPS, there is no earnings offset for State Police retirees who are reemployed with a participating employer on a *contractual or permanent basis*.

A retiree of the State Police system serving as a sheriff or State's Attorney is currently prohibited from earning a separate pension if the pension is supported by the State. The purpose of the prohibition is to prevent the accumulation of two State-supported pensions by one member. Each of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland has one sheriff and one State's Attorney, both of which are constitutional officials of the State. Because they are constitutional officers, the State by tradition funds their pension benefits if they are enrolled in the Employees' Pension System of the SRPS. Some sheriffs and State's Attorneys, however, elect to participate in their local pension systems, which may be more generous than the State plans.

**State Expenditures:** The State Retirement Agency advises that there are four State Police system retirees who are currently sheriffs with the costs paid by the State. It is not known whether any State's Attorneys are retirees of the State Police system. These retirees would be eligible for a benefit based on the years of service and average final compensation as a sheriff or State's Attorney.

Assuming that these four retirees have, on average, an annual salary of approximately \$50,000 and will retire with 12 years of service in the Employees' Pension System as a sheriff or State's Attorney, then the State's actuary informally estimates that State pension liabilities would increase by approximately \$454,000. Amortizing these liabilities over 25 years would result in additional pension contributions of approximately \$25,300 in fiscal 2004. Future year payments would increase by 5% per year based on actuarial assumptions. To the extent that actual membership, service, and salary vary from these assumptions, the actuarial costs will vary accordingly.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 680 of 2001 was not reported from the House Appropriations Committee. SB 566 of 2001 was passed by the Senate but was not reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

**Cross File:** HB 369 (Delegate W. Baker, *et al.*) – Appropriations.

**Information Source(s):** Milliman USA, State Retirement Agency, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2002  
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Analysis by: Matthew D. Riven

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510