

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1062

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

St. Mary's County - Deputy Sheriffs - Command-Level Appointees

This bill alters the appointment of command-level staff in the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: St. Mary's County finances would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes the St. Mary's County Sheriff to appoint command-level staff subject to the approval of the St. Mary's County Commissioners. The bill requires the county commissioners and the sheriff to set the number, rank, and salaries of command-level positions and to approve their creation, continued existence, funding, or reestablishment. When the appointment to the command-level position ends by an action of the sheriff, the failure of the county to fund the position, or by the rescission of the approval for that position, the individual serving in the command-level position must return to the rank held before being the appointment or to the higher rank for which the individual would have qualified while serving as a command-level appointee.

Current Law: The St. Mary's County Sheriff is authorized to appoint, without examination, a captain to serve at the pleasure of the sheriff. The St. Mary's County

Commissioners are authorized to set the salary of the captain. Only a deputy sheriff who holds the permanent rank of sergeant or lieutenant is eligible for appointment to captain. The captain is eligible to participate in the sheriff's officer retirement plan. The captain must return to the rank held before being appointed to captain or a higher rank if qualified when the service as captain ends.

Background: St. Mary's County advises that the captain is the only command-level position in the Sheriff's Office besides the sheriff. The St. Mary's County fiscal 2004 budget for the Office of Sheriff is currently funded at \$17.3 million for law enforcement, courthouse security, corrections, and training for a staffing level of 221 persons. The salary range for a captain is \$61,006 to \$102,253.

Local Fiscal Effect: St. Mary's County advises that, during the budget process for the county's sheriff's office, the county will consider if it is possible to fund additional command-level staff positions. The county advises that command-level staff would be appointed only if funds are available in the county budget and only from existing deputy sheriffs who serve at the rank of sergeant or lieutenant; the county further advises that no new positions would be created by the bill at this time. Accordingly, St. Mary's County expenditures would not be impacted. Revenues would not be affected.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2004
mll/ljm Revised - House Third Reader - March 30, 2004

Analysis by: Christopher J. Kelter

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510