

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1443

(Howard County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Howard County - Appointment and Tenure of Deputy Sheriffs
Ho. Co. 23-05

This bill alters the tenure of Howard County deputy sheriffs, so that each deputy at or below the rank of lieutenant, hired after the effective date of the bill, would be required to serve an initial 12-month probationary period, during which he or she may be dismissed by the Sheriff for any reason. Furthermore, the Sheriff has the exclusive discretion to determine whether a probationary deputy has the qualifications to be a nonprobationary deputy. After the probationary period, a full-time deputy at or below the rank of lieutenant may only be disciplined or dismissed for just cause in accordance with the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, or the personnel rules and regulations of the Howard County Sheriff's Office, whichever is applicable. Except for an appeal taken under the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights, an appeal by an aggrieved party would go before the circuit court.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Altering the tenure and rights of appeal for Howard County deputy sheriffs would not materially impact Howard County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Howard County Sheriff is required to appoint the number of deputies authorized by the county government. A deputy, however, holds office at the pleasure of

the Sheriff and may be removed by either the Sheriff at any time, or by the circuit court for Howard County upon indictment and conviction as provided by law.

Background: The Howard County Sheriff's Office provides services for the various courts in the judicial system including: serving all arrest warrants and papers issued by the Howard County court system; providing security in and around the circuit court; transporting inmates from the detention center to court; landlord tenant disputes, rentals, and evictions; and domestic violence service of ex-parte, protective, and peace orders. Howard County currently has 26 deputies, 4 corporals, 3 sergeants, 2 lieutenants, and 1 chief.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 16, 2005
ncs/hlb

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