

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 370

(Delegates Walkup and Sossi)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

Kent County - State's Attorney - Salary

This bill increases the salary of the Kent County State's Attorney from 70% to 80% of the salary of a District Court judge, beginning with the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Kent County personnel expenditures would increase by \$7,800 in FY 2007 and by \$16,800 beginning in FY 2009. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The salary of the Kent County State's Attorney is set at 70% of a District Court judge's salary. Salary adjustments for local officials take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which is January 2007 for the Kent County State's Attorney.

Background: The salary of the Kent County State's Attorney was last changed by Chapter 510 of 2002, which set the salary of the Kent County State's Attorney at 70% of the salary of a District Court judge. Prior to Chapter 510, the salary of the Kent County State's Attorney was an amount statutorily set by the General Assembly. Full salary increases for District Court judges as recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission were implemented by operation of law following the 2005 session of the General Assembly. As such, the salaries of District Court judges increased as outlined in

Exhibit 1. Exhibit 2 shows the fiscal 2005 actual salaries for the State's Attorneys in surrounding Eastern Shore counties.

Exhibit 1
District Court Judges' Salaries
Fiscal 2006 – 2009

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salary</u>
2006	\$114,502
2007	118,502
2008	122,752
2009	127,252

Exhibit 2
State's Attorneys' Salaries for Selected Maryland Counties
Fiscal 2005 Actuals

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caroline	31,058	\$89,802
Cecil	95,526	106,693
Dorchester	30,912	89,802
Kent	19,582	78,576
Queen Anne's	45,078	101,027
Talbot	35,017	89,802

Source: *Compensation Survey of Maryland Local Governments, FY 2005*, Institute for Governmental Service, University of Maryland

Local Fiscal Effect: Kent County personnel expenditures could increase by \$7,833 in fiscal 2007, reflecting the six-month period from January through June 2007 and by \$16,823 in fiscal 2009. The estimate assumes a constant fringe benefit employer contribution rate of 32.2% as advised by the county, and it assumes that the salary of a District Court judge will remain constant beyond fiscal 2009. To the extent that a District Court judge's salary is adjusted after fiscal 2009, the salary of the Kent County State's

Attorney would adjust accordingly. **Exhibit 3** shows the compensation increase for the Kent County State's Attorney for fiscal 2007 through 2011.

Exhibit 3
Increased Compensation for the Kent County State's Attorney
Fiscal 2007 - 2011

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salary Increase</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
2007	\$5,925	\$1,908	\$7,833
2008	12,275	3,953	16,228
2009	12,725	4,098	16,823
2010	12,725	4,098	16,823
2011	12,725	4,098	16,823

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Kent County; *Compensation Survey of Maryland Local Government, FY 2005*, Institute for Governmental Service, University of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2006
ncs/hlb Revised - Updated Information - February 8, 2006

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