

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 412  
Finance

(Senator Conway, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

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**Workers' Compensation - Permanent Partial Disability - Office of the Sheriff of  
Baltimore City - Feasibility Study**

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This bill requires a feasibility study to be conducted by the Baltimore City Department of Finance, in consultation with the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, of providing enhanced workers' compensation benefits for sworn officers of the City's Sheriff's Office. The study should include a detailed cost estimate and an analysis of the need for enhanced benefits. A report is to be made by December 1, 2006 to the Baltimore City Delegation.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The study could be performed with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Public safety employees entitled to receive enhanced workers' compensation benefits for PPDs for periods of less than 75 weeks include specified volunteer and paid firefighters, paramedics, and police officers. A public safety employee entitled to the enhanced benefits is entitled to two-thirds of his or her average weekly wage, not to exceed one-third of the State average weekly wage. The average State weekly wage for 2006 is \$801.

**Background:** Chapter 303 of 2001 included Prince George's County deputy sheriffs and Chapter 203 of 2004 included Montgomery County deputy sheriffs in the definition of a public safety employee for purposes of PPD benefit calculations.

There are currently 188 sworn positions in the Baltimore City Office of the Sheriff, which has an operating budget of \$10.3 million.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1053 (Delegate Goodwin) – Economic Matters.

**Information Source(s):** National Council on Compensation Insurance, Uninsured Employers' Fund, Workers' Compensation Commission, Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, Subsequent Injury Fund, Maryland Insurance Administration, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2006  
ncs/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 30, 2006

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Analysis by: Karen S. Benton

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