

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 95

(Delegate Elmore)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Somerset County - County Commissioners and Members of the County Roads Board - Salaries

This bill increases the annual salaries of the Somerset County Commissioners and the Somerset County Roads Board members from \$6,000 to \$7,500 each. The salaries for the presidents of each of these boards increases from \$6,000 to \$8,500.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County personnel expenditures would increase by approximately \$11,800 in FY 2007. Annualized personnel expenditures would increase by \$20,300 beginning in FY 2008. Revenues would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Salary adjustments for elected officials take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which is December 2006 for the Somerset County Commissioners. There are five county commissioners for Somerset County, each holding the position for a four-year term. The county commissioners serve as the county roads board.

Background: The salaries of the Somerset County Commissioners and the members of the Somerset County Roads Board were last changed by Chapter 262 of 2001, when they increased from \$5,500 to \$6,000 each. There was no differentiation made between the

annual salaries of the members of each of these boards and the presidents. **Exhibit 1** shows the actual fiscal 2005 salaries for county council members and commissioners in selected Eastern Shore counties.

Exhibit 1
County Council Member/Commissioner Salaries for Selected Eastern Shore Counties
Fiscal 2005 Actuals

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caroline	31,058	\$12,000
Dorchester	30,912	14,000
Somerset	25,863	12,000
Talbot	35,017	14,400
Wicomico	88,782	16,000
Worcester	48,974	16,000

Note: The salary listed for the Somerset County Commissioners includes the salary from the county roads board.

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

Local Fiscal Effect: Somerset County personnel expenditures in fiscal 2007 would increase by \$11,842 for salary (\$9,917) and fringe benefits (\$1,926), reflecting the seven-month period from December 2006 through June 2007. Annualized expenditures would increase by \$20,301 for salary (\$17,000) and fringe benefits (\$3,301) beginning in fiscal 2008. This estimate assumes a constant fringe benefits rate of 19.42% as advised by the county. **Exhibit 2** shows the total increase in compensation for fiscal 2007 and on an annualized basis for the president and all four members of the county commission and roads board.

Exhibit 2
Salary Adjustments for Somerset County Commissioners and Roads Board

Fiscal 2007

	<u>Salary Increase</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total Increased Compensation</u>
County Commissioners			
Members	\$3,500	\$680	\$4,180
President	1,458	283	1,742
Roads Board			
Members	3,500	680	4,180
President	1,458	283	1,742
Total	\$9,917	\$1,926	\$11,842

Annualized

	<u>Salary Increase</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total Increased Compensation</u>
County Commissioners			
Members	\$6,000	\$1,165	\$7,165
President	2,500	486	2,986
Roads Board			
Members	6,000	1,165	7,165
President	2,500	486	2,986
Total	\$17,000	\$3,301	\$20,301

Note: Totals may not compute due to rounding.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2006
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Joshua A. Watters

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