

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 115  
Judiciary

(Delegate Elmore)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Somerset County - Deputy Sheriffs - Conditions of Employment**

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This bill requires deputy sheriffs in Somerset County to successfully complete the Maryland Police Training Commission's prescribed course for police officers within one year of appointment. Upon completion of the probationary period, a deputy sheriff whose position is funded by the county commissioners becomes a merit system employee of the sheriff's office and may not be dismissed without cause. A deputy whose position is funded through a grant or other revenue source, however, may be dismissed without cause after the funding source is depleted. The bill specifies that deputies serve under the direction of the Somerset County Sheriff.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Making certain Somerset County deputy sheriffs merit system employees would not affect county finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Somerset County Sheriff is required to appoint a chief deputy and is authorized to appoint additional deputies with the approval of the county commissioners.

According to Title 3, § 215 of the Public Safety Article, a probationary appointment as a police officer, police supervisor, or a police administrator may be made for up to one year to enable the individual seeking permanent appointment to take a required training course

by the Police Training Commission. The definition of “police officer” includes a law enforcement officer in a county sheriff’s office.

**Background:** Somerset County advises that the sheriff’s office employs 18 deputies, all of whom are funded by the county commissioners. The county further advises that its deputy sheriffs already complete the Maryland Police Training Commission’s police officers’ training course.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Somerset County advises that making certain deputies merit system employees would not affect county finances. The other provisions of the bill codify existing practice and would not affect county finances.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 2006  
ncs/hlb

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