

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 287

(Senator McFadden)

Judicial Proceedings

Appropriations

Baltimore City - Orphans' Court Judges - Retirement Allowances

This bill increases the annual pension payment to retired associate and chief judges of the Orphans' Court for Baltimore City. For retired associate judges, the maximum pension payment increases from \$25,000 to \$31,250. For retired chief judges, the maximum pension payment increases from \$30,000 to \$36,250. The bill also increases the amount a judge earns toward a pension for each year of service on the court. For associate judges, the rate increases from \$2,500 to \$3,125 for each full or partial year of active service. For retired chief judges, the rate increases from \$3,000 to \$3,625 for each full or partial year of active service. The bill applies only to judges in active service since January 1, 1984 and does not apply until the following term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Pensions for judges of the Orphans' Court for Baltimore City are paid by Baltimore City.

Local Effect: Baltimore City expenditures increase by \$3,675 in FY 2007, reflecting the bill's October 1, 2006 effective date. In FY 2008 and beyond, the bill requires Baltimore City to pay \$6,250 in increased pension payments.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Judges of the Orphans Court for Baltimore City who served on the court on or after January 1, 1984 receive annual pension payments upon reaching age 60. For

associate judges, pensions are calculated at the rate of \$2,500 for each year of service on the court, up to a maximum of \$25,000. For chief judges, pensions are calculated at the rate of \$3,000 for each year of service on the court, up to a maximum of \$30,000.

Background: The Baltimore City Orphan's Court has jurisdiction over judicial probate, administration of estates, and conduct of personal representatives for Baltimore City. Its three judges are elected to four-year terms.

Local Expenditures: There is currently just one retired judge of the Baltimore City Orphan's Court. Local expenditures could increase in the future as current judges retire or other former judges reach retirement age.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None identified although HB 563 is identical.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Retirement Agency, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2006
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Analysis by: Michael C. Rubenstein

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