

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 62

(Senator Stoltzfus)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

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 from \$6,000 to \$7,500 each. The salaries for the presidents of each of these boards increase from \$6,000 to \$8,500.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County personnel expenditures would increase by \$11,900 in FY 2011. Annualized personnel expenditures would increase by \$20,300 beginning in FY 2012. 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 2010 for the Somerset County Commissioners. There are five county commissioners for Somerset County (four members and a president), each holding the position for a four-year term. The Board of County Commissioners constitutes 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 fiscal 2007 salaries for county council members and commissioners in selected Eastern Shore counties.

Exhibit 1
County Council Member/Commissioner Salaries
Selected Eastern Shore Counties
Fiscal 2007

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caroline	31,822	\$15,000
Dorchester	31,401	14,000
Somerset	25,845	12,000
Talbot	35,683	14,400
Wicomico	90,402	16,000
Worcester	48,750	21,200

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

Source: *Salary Survey of Maryland Local Governments, FY 2007*; (Institute for Governmental Service, University of Maryland)

Local Fiscal Effect: Since the county commissioners serve as the members of the county roads board, *ex officio*, the bill effectually increases the annual salaries for each of the four regular county commission members from \$12,000 to \$15,000 and the commission president from \$12,000 to \$17,000.

Somerset County personnel expenditures in fiscal 2011 would increase by a total of \$11,860 for increased salaries (\$9,917) and fringe benefits (\$1,943), reflecting the seven-month period from December 2010 through June 2011. Annualized expenditures would increase by \$20,330 for salaries (\$17,000) and fringe benefits (\$3,330) beginning in fiscal 2012. This estimate assumes a constant fringe benefits rate of 19.59% as advised by the county. **Exhibit 2** shows the total increase in compensation for fiscal 2011 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

FY 2011

	<u>Salary Increase</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total Increased Compensation</u>
County Commissioners			
Members	\$3,500	\$686	\$4,186
President	1,458	286	1,744
Roads Board			
Members	3,500	686	4,186
President	<u>1,458</u>	<u>286</u>	<u>1,744</u>
TOTAL	\$9,917	\$1,943	\$11,860

Annualized

	<u>Salary Increase</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total Increased Compensation</u>
County Commissioners			
Members	\$6,000	\$1,175	\$7,175
President	2,500	490	2,990
Roads Board			
Members	6,000	1,175	7,175
President	<u>2,500</u>	<u>490</u>	<u>2,990</u>
TOTAL	\$17,000	\$3,330	\$20,330

Note: Totals may not compute due to rounding.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A nearly identical bill, HB 95 of 2006, passed the House, received a favorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, passed on the second reading in the Senate, but did not receive a vote on the third reading.

Cross File: HB 13 (Delegate Elmore) – Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Somerset County, *Salary Survey of Maryland Local Governments, FY 2007*, (Institute for Governmental Service, University of Maryland); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2007
ncs/hlb

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