

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 323
Appropriations

(Delegate Mathias, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Worcester County - Sheriff's Office - Personnel Policies

This bill increases the minimum annual salary of the Worcester County Sheriff from \$17,500 to \$85,000. The sheriff must appoint at least one chief deputy (who serves at the pleasure of the sheriff) and as many deputies and other personnel as necessary and as provided in the county budget. The bill outlines sheriff's office personnel guidelines including the applicability of Worcester County personnel rules and regulations; the adoption of employee manuals and rules of conduct by the sheriff; limitations on disciplinary actions and terminations; and the continuation of employment for certain sheriff's office employees when a new sheriff takes office. Subject to statute and the reasonable application of county personnel rules and regulations, the bill specifies that the Worcester County Sheriff has complete control over the employees in his/her office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill's provisions either clarify the Worcester County Sheriff's Office personnel procedures or codify current practice.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Statute sets the minimum annual salary of the Worcester County Sheriff at \$17,500. The sheriff must appoint at least four deputies, a clerk-typist, and additional deputies, clerks, cooks, and jailers. The Worcester County Commissioners are required

to pay all of the necessary expenditures for the operation of the Worcester County jail and the sheriff's office, including certain travel expenses, equipment, weapons, ammunition, and office supplies.

Pursuant to Article III, § 35 of the Maryland Constitution, salary adjustments for elected officials do not take effect until the beginning of the next term of office.

Background: The Worcester County fiscal 2007 budget includes \$4.4 million for the sheriff's office. Funding for the sheriff's office represents 2.8% of the county's \$160.1 million general fund budget. In addition, the fiscal 2007 budget authorizes 70.4 positions for the sheriff's office, as shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1
Worcester County Sheriff's Office Personnel
Fiscal 2007 Budget

<u>Position</u>	<u>Number</u>
Chief Deputy	1
Captain	1
Lieutenant	3
Sergeant	6
Corporal	7
Detective	3
Deputy First Class	12
Deputy Sheriff	8
Chief Animal Control Officer	1
Assistant Chief Animal Control Officer	1
Animal Control Officer	2
Part-time Court Deputy	16.2
Office Assistant IV	1
Office Assistant III	3
Office Assistant II	3
CBI Office Assistant	0.4
School Crossing Guards	<u>1.8</u>
Total	70.4

Local Fiscal Effect: Although salary adjustments for elected officials do not take effect until the beginning of the next term of office, the Worcester County Sheriff currently earns the minimum salary set forth by the bill.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office currently has personnel policies and regulations in place, including rules of conduct, thus these provisions codify current practice. Other provisions of the bill clarify personnel procedures for the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, and thus would not impact county finances.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 374 (Senator Stolfus) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2007
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Joshua A. Watters

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