

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 247

(Senator Currie, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Economic Matters

Prince George's County - Board of License Commissioners - Attorney Compensation

This bill requires the Prince Georges County Council to pay the attorney for the county board of license commissioners the approved legal fees for representing the board in court in addition to the currently required annual salary. The amount includes any legal fees approved by the board but not paid in prior fiscal years. The county board of license commissioners must establish the attorney fee rate for representing the board in court.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. This bill codifies current practice. The Prince George's County FY 2007 budget already includes funding for the board's attorney's legal fees.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Prince George's County Council must pay for all expenses of the board of license commissioners upon the submission of an annual budget. In that budget, the salary of board members must be approved as prescribed in statute; however, all other expenses including the compensation of other personnel are at the discretion of the

county council. State law provides that the board attorney receive an annual salary of \$15,500, with the county council paying all court costs and expenses incurred by the attorney.

Background: In addition to the salary of \$15,500, the board attorney has been receiving a contractual income of \$26,500 annually. Current law does not provide that the board attorney be compensated for legal fees.

Local Expenditures: The Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners advises that the \$26,500 annual contractual compensation for the board's attorney was approved by the county council for fiscal 2006 and 2007. The board has budgeted an amount of \$26,500 for fiscal 2008. In future years, Prince George's County expenditures could increase to the extent that the board of license commissioners of the county council approve additional compensation.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None designated, although HB 492 is identical.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2007
mll/hlb Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 26, 2007

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