

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 760

(Delegate Walkup, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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Kent County - Office of the Sheriff - Salary

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This bill increases the annual salary of the Kent County Sheriff from \$68,000 to \$82,000 in calendar 2011. The annual salary then increases by \$1,000 each year until the sheriff's salary is set at \$85,000 for calendar 2014.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Kent County expenditures increase by \$10,100 in FY 2011 and by \$24,500 in FY 2015 and each subsequent year. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The annual salary of the Kent County Sheriff is \$67,000 for calendar 2009 and \$68,000 for calendar 2010. Salary adjustments for constitutional officers take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which is December 7, 2010 for the Kent County Sheriff.

**Background:** The salary of the Kent County Sheriff was last changed by Chapter 222 of 2005, when it increased from \$54,000 to \$65,000 in calendar 2007 and by \$1,000 annually until the salary reached \$68,000 in calendar 2010. **Exhibit 1** shows the actual fiscal 2008 salaries for sheriffs in Eastern Shore counties.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Sheriffs' Salaries for Eastern Shore Counties**  
**Fiscal 2008 Actuals**

<u>County</u>	<u>2007 Population</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caroline	32,910	\$65,000
Cecil	99,695	66,500
Dorchester	31,846	64,500
Kent	19,987	66,500
Queen Anne's	46,571	53,000
Somerset	26,016	60,000
Talbot	36,193	76,500
Wicomico	93,600	85,000
Worcester	49,374	85,000
<b>Average</b>	<b>48,466</b>	<b>\$69,111</b>

Source: *Salary Survey of Maryland County Government, FY 2008*, Maryland Association of Counties

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**Local Fiscal Effect:** The next term of office for the Kent County Sheriff begins December 7, 2010. The first salary increase takes effect January 1, 2011. Accordingly, Kent County personnel expenditures increase by \$10,070 in fiscal 2011 for salary (\$7,000) and fringe benefits (\$3,070). This reflects salary adjustments for a six-month period (January 2011 through June 2011). Kent County expenditures increase by \$24,455 annually beginning in fiscal 2015 for salary (\$17,000) and fringe benefits (\$7,455). **Exhibit 2** shows the increase in Kent County expenditures for fiscal 2011 through 2015, assuming a constant fringe benefits rate of 43.85% as advised by the county.

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**Exhibit 2**  
**Increase in Kent County Sheriffs' Compensation**

<u>Fiscal</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total</u>
2011	\$7,000	\$3,070	\$10,070
2012	14,500	6,358	20,858
2013	15,500	6,797	22,297
2014	16,500	7,235	23,735
2015	17,000	7,455	24,455

Source: Kent County Government

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Kent County, Maryland Association of Counties, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2009

SG/mwc

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Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510