

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 625
Judiciary

(Washington County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Washington County - Office of the Sheriff - Special Deputy Sheriffs

This bill enables the Washington County Sheriff to assign a special deputy sheriff who is a member of a municipal police force to duties throughout the county. The bill also limits the county's liability insurance for a special deputy sheriff to when the individual acts within the official duties of a special deputy sheriff.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Washington County may avoid expenditures associated with liability coverage for any individual who is a special deputy sheriff, while that individual is acting in an official capacity other than that of special deputy sheriff (*e.g.*, official duties as a municipal police officer).

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Washington County Sheriff may appoint special deputy sheriffs, including qualified members of the police force of a Washington County municipality who are selected by the municipality's police chief. The sheriff must assign a special deputy sheriff who is a police force member to duties in the municipality where the individual is employed, or in the surrounding area.

The sheriff may terminate the appointment of the special deputy sheriff for cause or on completion of the assignment for which the individual was appointed. The special deputy

sheriff is not an employee of Washington County for the purpose of employment security or employee benefits; however, county liability insurance must be provided to a special deputy sheriff only for acts within the official duties.

Background: The Washington County Sheriff's Office advises that there are currently approximately 30 police officers appointed as special deputies, serving as part of various task forces and the county's joint SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2009
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