

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 376
Finance

(Senator Middleton)

Economic Matters

Charles County - Workers' Compensation - Auxiliary Volunteer of Sheriff's Office

This bill establishes that auxiliary volunteers of the Charles County Sheriff's Office are covered employees while performing work assigned by the sheriff. The bill also specifies how the average weekly wage is computed for auxiliary volunteers if they are entitled to workers' compensation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Minimal expenditure increase due to the cost of workers' compensation insurance premiums for the 20 auxiliary volunteers. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A volunteer worker for a unit of a political subdivision in Allegany, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Washington, or Worcester counties is not a covered employee. Volunteer deputy sheriffs in Cecil County are considered covered employees while performing duties assigned by the sheriff.

Local Fiscal Effect: Charles County advises its workers' compensation premium will total \$6,000 as a result of the bill. This is based on 20 volunteer deputy sheriffs receiving

medical and indemnity benefits. Otherwise, absent the bill, the county estimates that it would pay \$4,400 in insurance premium costs for fiscal 2010. Therefore, the bill's net impact, after adjusting for the October 1, 2009 effective date, is \$1,200 in fiscal 2010. Assuming workers' compensation rates increase 10% per year, the projected increase in expenditures by fiscal 2014 is \$2,343. No effect on county revenues.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 380 (Charles County Delegation) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Charles County, Injured Workers' Insurance Fund, National Council on Compensation Insurance, Subsequent Injury Fund, Uninsured Employers' Fund, Workers' Compensation Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2009
ncs/rhh Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 25, 2009
Revised - Clarification - May 15, 2009

Analysis by: Michael T. Vorgetts

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