

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 277

(St. Mary's County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Judicial Proceedings

St. Mary's County - Appointment to Assistant Sheriff - Rank Eligibility

This bill establishes that in St. Mary's County, only a deputy sheriff holding one of the two permanent ranks immediately preceding the rank of assistant sheriff is eligible for appointment to the assistant sheriff position.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. St. Mary's County finances will not be affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The elected Sheriff of St. Mary's County may appoint an assistant sheriff to serve at the pleasure of the sheriff, without examination. To be eligible for appointment to assistant sheriff, a deputy sheriff must hold the permanent rank of sergeant or lieutenant.

Chapter 495 of 2008 replaced the rank of captain with that of assistant sheriff, without altering the duties or compensation of the position.

Background: The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office advises that it has recently restructured position titles (*e.g.*, the rank of "lieutenant" was changed to "captain" and the rank of "sergeant" was changed to "lieutenant") to better reflect the structure of surrounding jurisdictions, without altering duties or compensation. As a result of this

restructuring, the two ranks immediately preceding the assistant sheriff are captain and lieutenant, not lieutenant and sergeant. Thus, current law does not allow the sheriff to draw from the two ranks immediately preceding the assistant sheriff when appointing a deputy sheriff to that position. The sheriff's office suggests that the bill would help to prevent the need for future changes to the law resulting from any future restructuring of position titles.

The approved fiscal 2009 budget for St. Mary's County includes four captain and nine lieutenant positions, as these position titles are reflected in the new structure.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2009
ncs/mwc

Analysis by: Scott P. Gates

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