

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 966

(Washington County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Budget and Taxation

Washington County - Salary Study Process

This bill alters the method for selecting the one at large member of the Washington County Salary Study Commission by requiring the member to be appointed by the Washington County Retired Teachers Association instead of by the Washington County Council of PTA's. The bill repeals the requirement that the commission study the salary of the State's Attorney. Except regarding the salary of county commissioners and the sheriff, the bill repeals the requirement that the Washington County Commissioners submit salary recommendations to the county legislative delegation. Instead, the bill establishes a timeframe for the county commissioners to set by local law the salaries reviewed by the commission, other than those for the county commissioners and the sheriff. Also, the bill establishes criteria that the commission must consider for each office in formulating its report and recommendations to the county commissioners.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill's changes will not impact Washington County finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: Except regarding the salary of county commissioners and the sheriff, within 45 days after receiving the recommendations of the commission, the county commissioners must set by local law the salary for each office included in the commission recommendations. Established salaries must not violate the State constitution respecting limitations on salary increases for public officials while still in office.

The commission must consider the following for each office in formulating its report and recommendations:

- scope of responsibilities of the office;
- education, skills, abilities, licensure, and certification required to perform duties of the office;
- salaries of similar offices in other jurisdictions;
- time required to perform duties of the office;
- salaries of subordinate employees under direct supervision of the office;
- workload volume of the office; and
- any other information the commission deems relevant.

Current Law: The Washington County Salary Study Commission must study the salaries of the following positions:

- Board of County Commissioners;
- Board of Education;
- Orphans' Court judges;
- Sheriff;
- State's Attorney;
- Treasurer;
- Board of Supervisors of Elections; and
- Board of Liquor License Commissioners.

On or before November 20, 1996, and on or before December 1 each fourth year thereafter, the commission must issue a report containing recommendations to the county commissioners for review and consideration. The county commissioners may accept, reduce, or reject but may not increase the recommendations of the commission.

On or before December 15, 1996, and on or before December 15 each fourth year thereafter, the county commissioners must submit recommendations to the legislative delegation concerning the salaries studied by the commission.

Background: The Washington County Salary Study Commission was created by Chapter 85 of 1994. The salary of the Washington County State's Attorney is currently set at 90% of the salary of a judge of the District Court of Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 23, 2010
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