

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1182
Appropriations

(Charles County Delegation)

Finance

Charles County Sheriff - Collective Bargaining - Binding Arbitration

This bill authorizes a specified collective bargaining agreement in Charles County relating to the sheriff's office to contain a grievance procedure providing for binding arbitration of the interpretation of contract terms and clauses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Charles County expenditures may increase to the extent the Charles County Sheriff's Office enters into binding arbitration due to a specified contract dispute. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Seven counties in Maryland have collective bargaining for deputy sheriffs including: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. In Allegany, Anne Arundel, and Prince George's counties, binding arbitration is provided. The scope of collective bargaining is limited in a few counties: Charles County does not authorize bargaining on salaries and other issues controlled by the county commissioners; Frederick County authorizes bargaining for wages and benefits only. In Anne Arundel County, binding arbitration related to fiscal matters, is subject to approval of the county council; however, this provision of law, enacted in 2011, is currently in litigation.

Background: Charles County reports that the first negotiated contract for sheriff's deputies took effect July 1, 2004; and the first negotiated contract for correctional officers took effect July 1, 2006. There are currently 259 deputies in the sheriff's office that are at the rank of sergeant or below and an additional 139 correctional officers at the rank of sergeant or below. The fiscal 2012 budget for the Charles County Sheriff's Office totals \$64.6 million.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Charles County Sheriff's Office advises that expenditures may increase in future years to the extent there is binding arbitration for a contract dispute. The office advises that, to date, there have been no major issues that would have led to binding arbitration had this bill been in effect in prior years. In addition, deputies are not authorized to negotiate salaries, wages, or other benefits determined to be controlled by the county commissioners. Any future expenditures associated with binding arbitration cannot be reliably estimated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles County; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2012
ncs/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - March 27, 2012

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