

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 720

(Washington County Delegation)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Washington County - Salary Study Commission - Updating Salary and Expense Provisions

This bill specifies that, in Washington County, the salaries for the Board of License Commissioners, the Treasurer, the Board of Education, and the Orphans' Court judges will be set by the Washington County Commissioners under authority of Title 28, Subtitle 2 of the Local Government Article. The bill also requires that one at-large member of the Washington County Salary Study Commission be a resident selected by the county commissioners. Under current law, this at-large member is selected by the Retired Teachers Association. Finally, the bill repeals a specified expense allowance for judges of the Orphans' Court and instead authorizes the county commissioners to provide for an expense allowance as they determine.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not significantly affect Washington County finances. Any salary changes resulting from the salary study commission's recommendations will take effect at the start of the individual's next term of office.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

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;
- Treasurer; and
- Board of Liquor License Commissioners.

Beginning November 20, 1996, and by December 1 each fourth year thereafter, the salary study 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 salary study commission.

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

Beginning December 15, 1996, and by December 15 each fourth year thereafter, the county commissioners must submit recommendations to the legislative delegation concerning the salaries of the county commissioners and the sheriff.

Judges of the Orphans' Court in Washington County are authorized to receive an expense allowance, of up to \$1,000 per year, for specified expenses.

Background: The Washington County Salary Study Commission was created by Chapter 85 of 1994. The salary study commission consists of nine members.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 814 (Senator Shank) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2013
mds/hlb Revised - House Third Reader - April 1, 2013

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