

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1552

(Wicomico County Delegation)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Wicomico County - Orphans' Court Judges - Salaries**

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This bill increases the salaries of the orphans' court judges for Wicomico County from \$6,400 to \$9,500. The salary increases take effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** County expenditures increase by \$5,600 in FY 2015 and by \$9,500 annually thereafter. Local revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Each judge of the orphans' court for Wicomico County receives annual compensation of \$6,400, which is paid quarterly. Each judge is also allowed \$1,560 annually for travelling expenses, which is payable quarterly.

**Background:** Under the Maryland Constitution, each county elects, for a term of four years, three judges to the orphans' court of their respective jurisdictions, with the exception of Montgomery and Harford counties, where a circuit court judge sits as the orphans' court. The orphans' courts are the State's probate courts. The courts supervise the handling of estates and also have certain jurisdiction over the guardianship of minors and their property. The salaries of orphans' court judges are paid by county governments

and Baltimore City (except for Harford and Montgomery counties because the State pays the salaries of circuit court judges).

**Local Expenditures:** County expenditures increase by approximately \$5,600 in fiscal 2015 and by \$9,500 annually thereafter. This estimate accounts for the salary increases taking effect in early December 2014, the beginning of the next term of office, and includes fringe benefits.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Wicomico County, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 13, 2014  
mam/kdm

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