

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 914
Judiciary

(Charles County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Charles County - Orphans' Court Judges - Salary

This bill increases the salaries of the orphans' court judges for Charles County. The bill establishes that the annual salary for each orphans' court judge is (1) \$10,500 for calendar 2015; (2) \$11,000 for calendar 2016; (3) \$11,500 for calendar 2017; and (4) \$12,000 for calendar 2018 and each subsequent calendar year.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Charles County expenditures increase by \$825 in FY 2015 and by a minimum of \$2,475 annually thereafter; by FY 2019, expenditures increase by \$6,600 annually. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each judge of the orphans' court for Charles County receives annual compensation of \$10,000. Each judge is also allowed \$500 annually for travelling expenses.

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 \$825 in fiscal 2015 and by \$2,475 in fiscal 2016 for the three affected judges. By fiscal 2019, when the salary increases are fully implemented, county expenditures increase by \$6,600 annually. The estimates include fringe benefits.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2014
ncs/kdm

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