

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 897

(Senators Brinkley and Young)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

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Frederick County - Orphans' Court Judges - Salary

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This bill increases the salaries of the orphans' court associate judges for Frederick County from \$6,000 to \$10,000 and, for the Chief Judge, from \$6,500 to \$11,000. 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 \$7,860 in FY 2015 and by \$13,475 annually thereafter. Local revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Each associate judge of the orphans' court for Frederick County receives annual compensation of \$6,000; the Chief Judge receives \$6,500. Each judge also receives reimbursement of up to \$700 per year for expenses actually incurred in the performance of duties.

**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 \$7,860 in fiscal 2015 and by \$13,475 annually thereafter. The estimates account for the salary increases taking effect in early December 2014, the beginning of the next term of office, and include fringe benefits.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1112 (Frederick County Delegation) - Judiciary.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2014  
ncs/kdm

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Analysis by: Jennifer K. Botts

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510