

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1089

(Anne Arundel County Delegation)(By Request -
Orphans' Court Judges)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Anne Arundel County - Orphans' Court Judges - Salary

This bill increases the salaries of the orphans' court associate judges for Anne Arundel County from \$29,000 to \$33,000 for calendar 2015 and each subsequent calendar year. The salary of the Chief Judge of the orphans' court increases from \$29,500 to \$35,000.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Anne Arundel County expenditures increase by \$7,950 in FY 2015 and by \$15,900 annually thereafter. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each judge of the orphans' court for Anne Arundel County receives annual compensation of \$29,000; the Chief Judge receives \$29,500. Each judge also receives an expense allowance of up to \$150 per month for personal expenses incidental to the judge's duties. Anne Arundel County must pay a pension to each orphans' court judge who has terminated active service, reached 60 years of age, and completed at least two terms of office.

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 \$7,950 in fiscal 2015 and by \$15,900 annually thereafter to account for the salary increases for orphans' court judges. This estimate includes fringe benefits.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 946 (Senator Astle) – Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2014
ncs/kdm Revised - House Third Reader - March 18, 2014

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