

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 149

(Delegate Otto)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Somerset County - Commissioners - Salary and Expense Reimbursements

This bill increases the annual salary for the Somerset County commissioners from \$7,500 to \$8,500 and from \$8,500 to \$9,500 for the commission president. The bill also increases from \$2,500 to \$3,000 the annual reimbursement amount that commissioners may receive for expenses incurred for any official duties.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County expenditures increase by \$4,900 in FY 2019 and by \$8,400 annually beginning in FY 2020. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Salary adjustments for elected officials take effect at the beginning of the next term of office, which is December 2018 for the Somerset County commissioners. There are five county commissioners for Somerset County (four members and a president), each holding the position for a four-year term.

Background: Chapter 372 of 2007 increased the annual salary of the Somerset County commissioners and the members of the Somerset County Roads Board from \$6,000 to \$7,500. The salary for the commission president was increased from \$6,000 to \$8,500. Chapter 262 of 2001 increased the annual salary for commission and road board members

from \$5,500 to \$6,000. **Exhibit 1** shows the fiscal 2016 salaries for county council and commission members in selected Eastern Shore counties.

Exhibit 1
County Council and Commissioner Salaries
Selected Eastern Shore Counties
Fiscal 2016

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Caroline	32,538	\$15,000
Dorchester	32,578	16,000
Somerset	25,859	15,000
Talbot	37,643	14,400
Wicomico	101,539	16,000
Worcester	51,675	26,000

Note: The salary listed for the Somerset County commissioners includes the salary from the county roads board.

Source: *Report of County Employee Salaries, Health Benefits & Pensions, Fiscal Year 2016* (Maryland Association of Counties)

Local Fiscal Effect: Somerset County expenditures increase by \$4,916 in fiscal 2019 for increased salaries (\$2,917), fringe benefits (\$541), and expense reimbursements (\$1,458). This estimate reflects the additional personnel cost for the seven-month period from December 2018 through June 2019. Beginning in fiscal 2020, county expenditures increase by \$8,428 annually for salaries (\$5,000), fringe benefits (\$928), and expense reimbursements (\$2,500). This estimate assumes a constant fringe benefits rate of 18.6% as advised by the county.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 135 (Senator Mathias) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Somerset County, Maryland Association of Counties, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:
min/hlb

First Reader - January 29, 2016
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