

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1431
Appropriations

(Harford County Delegation)

Finance

Harford County Sheriff - Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Officers - Collective Bargaining

This bill authorizes full-time deputy sheriffs and correctional officers in the Office of the Sheriff of Harford County at the rank of captain and below to organize and bargain collectively with the Harford County Sheriff and the Harford County Executive on specified wage, benefits, and working conditions. The bill does not authorize or allow deputy sheriffs or correctional officers to engage in a strike or restrict in any way the authority of the Harford County Executive or County Council to determine the budget for the sheriff's office.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Harford County expenditures may increase depending on wage and benefits packages that are developed and consulting services necessary for negotiations. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes full-time deputy sheriffs and correctional officers in the Office of the Sheriff of Harford County, at the rank of captain and below, to take part in or refrain from taking part in forming, joining, supporting, or participating in a labor

organization with regard to specified collective bargaining activities. The bill provides for the methods and procedures for establishing collective bargaining arrangements, including funding and dates by which agreements must be reached.

Current Law: Eight counties in Maryland have collective bargaining for deputy sheriffs, including Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties. In Allegany, Anne Arundel, and Prince George’s counties, binding arbitration is authorized. The scope of collective bargaining is limited in a few counties: Charles County does not authorize bargaining on salaries and other issues controlled by the county commissioners, and Frederick County authorizes bargaining for wages and benefits only.

Local Expenditures: Harford County advises that the county may incur additional expenditures for consulting services to negotiate any collective bargaining agreements. In addition, future year expenditures may increase depending on future collective bargaining agreements. These expenditures cannot be reliably estimated and depend on the wage and benefits packages that are developed. Any additional funding required as the result of a collective bargaining agreement is subject to the approval of the Harford County Executive and the Harford County Council.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2017
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