

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 509

(Senator Peters)

Judicial Proceedings

Health and Government Operations

Prince George's County - Orphans' Court Judges - Salary

This bill increases, from \$42,000 to \$50,000, the annual salaries for associate judges of the orphans' court for Prince George's County. It also increases, from \$42,500 to \$55,000, the annual salary for the chief judge of the orphans' court for Prince George's County. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increase takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Prince George's County expenditures increase by approximately \$18,400 in FY 2019 and by approximately \$36,800 annually thereafter. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Associate orphans' court judges in Prince George's County receive annual compensation of \$42,000; the Chief Judge receives \$42,500 annually.

Article III, § 35 of the Maryland Constitution prohibits the salary or compensation of any public officer from being increased or diminished during the individual's term of office, except those whose full term is fixed by law in excess of four years.

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: Prince George's County expenditures increase by \$18,383 in fiscal 2019 and by \$36,765 annually thereafter. The estimate includes fringe benefits and accounts for the next term of office beginning in January 2019.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2017
kb/kdm Third Reader - March 20, 2017
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 20, 2017

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