

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 908

(Calvert County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Calvert County - State's Attorney - Annual Salary

This bill alters the salary of the Calvert County State's Attorney to be equal to the salary of a circuit court judge. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019; however, 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: Calvert County expenditures increase by a minimum of \$14,600 in FY 2023 and by a minimum of \$29,200 annually thereafter. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Calvert County State's Attorney receives an annual salary equal to 90% of the salary of a judge of the District Court. In fiscal 2019, the salary of a judge of the District Court is \$146,333 and the Calvert County State's Attorney's salary is \$131,700. Pursuant to Joint Resolution 3 of the 2018 session, judicial salaries will increase by \$5,000 each year through fiscal 2022.

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. According to a letter from the Counsel to the General Assembly, dated January 17, 1978, salary increases that are to be implemented over a period of time are permissible if implemented before the beginning of the term.

Local Expenditures: County expenditures increase by a minimum of \$14,617 in fiscal 2023 and by a minimum of \$29,233 annually thereafter. The estimate accounts for the salary increase taking effect in January 2023, the beginning of the next term of office, and does not include fringe benefits. Pursuant to Joint Resolution 3 of the 2018 session, judicial salaries have been set through fiscal 2022; the estimate reflects fiscal 2022 salary amounts.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2019
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