

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 950

(Senators Eckardt and Carozza)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

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**Wicomico County - Orphans' Court - Salary of Orphans' Court Judges**

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This bill increases, from \$9,500 to \$11,600, the annual salaries of the orphans' court judges for Wicomico County. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increases take effect at the beginning of the next terms of office.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Wicomico County expenditures increase by \$4,200 in FY 2023 and by \$7,200 annually thereafter. Local revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Pursuant to statute, each orphans' court judge for Wicomico County receives an annual salary of \$9,500 (in addition to an annual travel allowance of \$1,560).

Article III, § 35 of the Maryland Constitution prohibits the salary or compensation of any public official 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:** Wicomico County expenditures increase by \$4,227 in fiscal 2023 and by \$7,245 annually thereafter. This estimate assumes the next terms of office begin December 2022 and includes fringe benefits.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2022  
fnu2/jkb Third Reader - April 7, 2022

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