

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1213 (Baltimore County Delegation)
Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore County - Sheriff - Salary

This bill establishes the salary of the Baltimore County Sheriff as follows: (1) \$90,000 for calendar years 2024 and 2025; (2) \$138,000 for calendar 2026; (3) \$143,000 for calendar 2027; (4) \$150,000 for calendar 2028; and (5) \$157,500 for calendar 2029. In subsequent years – subject to constitutional requirements – the salary is that established by the Baltimore County Council in its annual budget. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increases take effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: Baltimore County expenditures increase by \$48,800 in FY 2027 and by at least \$90,400 annually thereafter through FY 2030.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: As of calendar 2010, the annual salary of the Baltimore County Sheriff is \$90,000.

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: Baltimore County expenditures increase by \$48,800 in fiscal 2027 and by at least \$90,400 annually thereafter, through fiscal 2030. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary is not altered until the next term of office. The estimate includes fringe benefits (as provided by the county) and accounts for the first increase taking effect in December 2026, when the next term of office begins. Although the bill does not set a salary beyond calendar 2029, instead establishing that the salary is that provided by the Baltimore County Council in its annual budget, due to constitutional requirements the calendar 2029 salary remains in effect until the following term of office commences in December 2030. The fiscal impact beyond fiscal 2030 depends on subsequent actions taken by the Baltimore County Council, which cannot be reliably estimated in advance.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 934 (Senator Brooks, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2024
rh/jkb Third Reader - March 14, 2024

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