

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 844 (Delegate Otto, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Somerset County - Salaries of Local Officials - Increase

This bill increases the salaries of certain public officials in Somerset County. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increases take effect at the beginning of the next terms of office.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Local expenditures increase by at least \$23,300 in FY 2027 and \$40,000 annually thereafter. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: Current and proposed salary changes for public officials in Somerset County are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

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.

Exhibit 1
Proposed Salary Changes for Somerset County Officials

<u>Public Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Proposed Salary</u>
Sheriff	\$85,000	\$105,000
County Commissioner	10,000	12,000
County Commissioner – President	11,000	13,000
County Roads Board – Member	10,000	12,000
County Roads Board – President	11,000	13,000

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Local Expenditures: Somerset County expenditures increase by at least \$23,300 in fiscal 2027 and by a minimum of \$40,000 annually thereafter, which accounts for the relevant terms of office beginning December 2026. As Somerset County did not respond to a request for information on the fiscal impact of the bill, the estimate does not account for any applicable fringe benefits.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: SB 717 (Senator Carozza) - Education, Energy, and the Environment and Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2025
rh/jkb

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