

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 626

Judicial Proceedings

(Frederick County Senators)

Environment and Transportation

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**Frederick County - Sheriff - Salary**

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This bill alters the annual salary of the Frederick County Sheriff by establishing that the salary is \$187,313 for calendar 2025 and, for calendar 2026 and beyond, equivalent to 82.5% of the Frederick County State's Attorney's annual salary, including any increments and salary adjustments, as specified. Any change in the salary of the State's Attorney during the sheriff's term of office may not apply during the sheriff's current term of office, but the changed rate takes effect at the beginning of the next term. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary structure specified in the bill takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** Frederick County expenditures increase by approximately \$56,600 in FY 2027 and at least \$102,900 annually thereafter. County revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The current salary of the Frederick County Sheriff is \$125,000. The current salary of the Frederick County State's Attorney is \$227,047. Under statute, the salary of the State's Attorney must be increased annually in a percentage equal to the average annual increment and salary adjustment given to Frederick County employees over the State's Attorney's prior four-year term. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increase takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

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:** Frederick County expenditures increase by approximately \$56,600 in fiscal 2027 and by a minimum of \$102,900 annually thereafter. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary is not altered until the next term of office. Absent additional information from the county, this estimate (1) is based on the current salary for the Frederick County State's Attorney; (2) assumes the next term of office begins December 2026; (3) assumes that the Frederick County State's Attorney's salary increases by 3.5% annually per calendar year, with related increases to the sheriff's salary; and (4) includes fringe benefits as provided by the county.

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## **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1197 (Frederick County Delegation) - Environment and Transportation.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 2025  
rh/jkb Third Reader - March 24, 2025  
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 24, 2025

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