

HOUSE BILL 165

D1, D2

6lr0738

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Bouchat**

Requested: August 27, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Sheriffs’ Salaries – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that the salaries of certain sheriffs be equal to the salaries of
4 certain State’s Attorneys; and generally relating to sheriffs’ salaries.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

6 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

7 Section 2–314(a), 2–318(a), 2–319(a), 2–320(a), 2–321(a), 2–323(a), 2–324(a),
8 2–325(a), 2–326(a), 2–328(a), 2–332(a), 2–333(a), 2–334(a), 2–335(b),
9 2–336(a), and 2–337(a)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

14 Section 2–314(b), 2–318(b)(1), 2–319(b), 2–320(b), 2–321(b)(1), 2–323(b)(1), 2–324(b),
15 2–325(b)(1), 2–326(b)(1), 2–328(b), 2–332(b), 2–333(b)(1), 2–334(b), 2–335(c),
16 2–336(b), and 2–337(b)(1)

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

22 2–314.

23 (a) This section applies only in Allegany County.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
2 SUBSECTION, THE Sheriff of Allegany County shall receive the salary set by the County
3 Commissioners of Allegany County in accordance with Title 28, Subtitle 1 of the Local
4 Government Article.

5 (2) BEGINNING IN CALENDAR YEAR 2027, THE SALARY OF THE
6 SHERIFF OF ALLEGANY COUNTY IS EQUAL TO THE SALARY OF THE STATE'S
7 ATTORNEY FOR ALLEGANY COUNTY.

8 2-318.

9 (a) This section applies only in Calvert County.

10 (b) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
11 SUBSECTION, THE Sheriff of Calvert County shall receive an annual salary:

12 (i) [Of \$90,480 for calendar year 2018; and

13 (ii)] Beginning in calendar year 2019, equal to the salary of a
14 Department of State Police lieutenant colonel, class code 5905 (grade 13, step 12); AND

15 (II) BEGINNING IN CALENDAR YEAR 2027, EQUAL TO THE
16 SALARY OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR CALVERT COUNTY.

17 2-319.

18 (a) This section applies only in Caroline County.

19 (b) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
20 SUBSECTION, THE Sheriff of Caroline County shall receive an annual salary equal to 85%
21 of the annual salary of the State's Attorney for Caroline County.

22 (2) BEGINNING IN 2027, THE SHERIFF OF CAROLINE COUNTY SHALL
23 RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY EQUAL TO THE SALARY OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
24 FOR CAROLINE COUNTY.

25 2-320.

26 (a) This section applies only in Carroll County.

27 (b) (1) The Sheriff of Carroll County shall receive an annual salary of \$140,000
28 beginning December 5, 2023.

29 (2) Beginning in 2026, the salary for the Sheriff shall be \$191,078.10.

(3) Beginning in 2027, the salary for the Sheriff shall be **[\$212,309] EQUAL TO THE SALARY OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR CARROLL COUNTY.**

3 2-321.

4 (a) This section applies only in Cecil County.

5 (b) (1) The Sheriff of Cecil County shall receive an annual salary [of]:

6 (i) [\$71,500 for fiscal year 2015;

7 (ii) \$75,075 for fiscal year 2016;

8 (iii) \$77,350 for fiscal year 2017;

9 (iv) \$79,675 for fiscal year 2018;

10 (v) Except as provided in item (vi) of this paragraph, \$82,075 for
11 fiscal year 2019; and

12 (vi)] For each term of office beginning with the term that begins in
13 fiscal year 2019 AND ENDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2027, not less than \$100,000, as
14 determined by the County Council of Cecil County; AND

17 2-323.

18 (a) This section applies only in Dorchester County.

22 (II) BEGINNING IN 2027, THE SHERIFF OF DORCHESTER
23 COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY EQUAL TO THE SALARY OF THE
24 STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY.

25 2-324.

26 (a) This section applies only in Frederick County.

27 (b) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
28 SUBSECTION, THE Sheriff of Frederick County shall receive an annual salary of \$125,000.

1 **(2) BEGINNING IN 2027, THE SHERIFF OF FREDERICK COUNTY**
2 SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY EQUAL TO THE SALARY OF THE STATE'S
3 ATTORNEY FOR FREDERICK COUNTY.

4 2-325.

5 (a) This section applies only in Garrett County.

6 (b) (1) **[The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
7 **PARAGRAPH, THE** Sheriff of Garrett County shall receive an annual salary that is 80% of
8 the salary of the State's Attorney of Garrett County.

9 **(II) BEGINNING IN 2027, THE SHERIFF OF GARRETT COUNTY**
10 SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY EQUAL TO THE SALARY OF THE STATE'S
11 ATTORNEY OF GARRETT COUNTY.

12 2-326.

13 (a) This section applies only in Harford County.

14 (b) (1) **[The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
15 **PARAGRAPH, THE** salary for the Sheriff of Harford County is equal to the salary of a
16 Department of State Police lieutenant colonel, at the highest available step for a lieutenant
17 colonel under the Department of State Police pay plan in effect on the day prior to the day
18 that the Sheriff begins a term of office.

19 **(II) BEGINNING IN 2027, THE SALARY OF THE SHERIFF OF**
20 **HARFORD COUNTY IS EQUAL TO THE SALARY OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR**
21 **HARFORD COUNTY.**

22 2-328.

23 (a) This section applies only in Kent County.

24 (b) (1) **[The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
25 **SUBSECTION, THE** Sheriff of Kent County shall receive an annual salary equal to 80% of
26 the annual salary of the State's Attorney for Kent County.

27 **(2) BEGINNING IN 2027, THE SHERIFF OF KENT COUNTY SHALL**
28 RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY EQUAL TO THE ANNUAL SALARY OF THE STATE'S
29 ATTORNEY FOR KENT COUNTY.

30 2-332.

31 (a) This section applies only in St. Mary's County.

(b) The Sheriff of St. Mary's County shall receive an annual salary [of]:

- (1) [\$100,000 for calendar year 2015;
- (2) \$102,000 for calendar year 2016;
- (3) \$104,040 for calendar year 2017; and
- (4)] Beginning in calendar year 2018, equal to the salary of a Department
te Police lieutenant colonel (step 12); AND

9 2-333.

(a) This section applies only in Somerset County.

11 (b) (1) (I) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
12 PARAGRAPH, THE Sheriff of Somerset County shall receive an annual salary of not less
13 than \$105,000.

17 2-334.

(a) This section applies only in Talbot County.

19 (b) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
20 SUBSECTION, THE Sheriff of Talbot County shall receive a salary as set by the County
21 Council of Talbot County.

25 2-335.

(b) This section applies only in Washington County.

6 2-336.

7 (a) This section applies only in Wicomico County.

12 [(2)] (II) The salary set by the County Council of Wicomico County before
13 the start of the term of office.

17 2-337.

18 (a) This section applies only in Worcester County.

19 (b) (1) (I) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
20 PARAGRAPH, THE Sheriff of Worcester County shall receive an annual salary as set by the
21 County Commissioners of Worcester County of at least \$85,000.

22 (II) BEGINNING IN 2027, THE SHERIFF OF WORCESTER
23 COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY EQUAL TO THE ANNUAL SALARY OF
24 THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR WORCESTER COUNTY.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in accordance with Article
26 III, § 35 of the Maryland Constitution, this Act may not be construed to extend or apply to
27 the salary or compensation of the Sheriff of Allegany County, the Sheriff of Calvert County,
28 the Sheriff of Caroline County, the Sheriff of Carroll County, the Sheriff of Cecil County,
29 the Sheriff of Dorchester County, the Sheriff of Frederick County, the Sheriff of Garrett
30 County, the Sheriff of Harford County, the Sheriff of Kent County, the Sheriff of St. Mary's
31 County, the Sheriff of Somerset County, the Sheriff of Talbot County, the Sheriff of
32 Washington County, the Sheriff of Wicomico County, or the Sheriff of Worcester County
33 while serving in a term of office beginning before the effective date of this Act, but the
34 provisions of this Act concerning the salary or compensation of the sheriffs listed under this

1 section shall take effect at the beginning of the next following term of office. This limitation
2 does not apply to an individual appointed or elected after the effective date of this Act to
3 fill out an unexpired term.

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2026.