

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 1003

(Howard County Senators)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Howard County - Sheriff and State's Attorney - Compensation**  
**Ho. Co. 13-26**

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This bill alters the salaries of the Howard County Sheriff and the Howard County State's Attorney by establishing the following salaries for each office: (1) for calendar 2027, \$220,601; (2) for calendar 2028, \$227,230; (3) for calendar 2029, \$234,079; and (4) for calendar 2030 and annually thereafter, \$241,149. 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:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Howard County expenditures increase by approximately \$48,000 in FY 2027 and by at least \$96,000 annually thereafter, as discussed below. County revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Under statute, the sheriff's salary is equal to the salary of a major on step 6 of the Howard County Police Management Schedule and the state's attorney's salary is equal to the salary of a District Court Judge. Accordingly, the state's attorney's salary in fiscal 2026 is \$201,333; *according to Howard County*, the current salary of the sheriff is \$138,671 (the Department of Legislative Services notes that the reported salary appears to differ from that under the management schedule).

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:** Howard County expenditures increase by approximately \$48,000 in fiscal 2027, by \$96,00 in fiscal 2028, and by at least \$104,000 annually thereafter. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salaries are not altered until the next terms of office.

This estimate (1) reflects *future* salary amounts for the state's attorney that would have otherwise occurred beginning in fiscal 2027 (*i.e.*, salary amounts for District Court judges as implemented in Senate Joint Resolution 2/House Joint Resolution 6 of 2026); (2) reflects only the *current* salary of the sheriff *as reported by Howard County*; and (3) does not account for fringe benefits. To the extent that the sheriff would have – in the absence of the bill – received salary increases based on the current salary structure in the county, the expenditures attributable to the bill and reflected in this analysis are mitigated.

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### Additional Information

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - April 1, 2026  
jg/jkb

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