

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

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

Senate Bill 976

(Senators Carozza and Mautz)

Judicial Proceedings

---

**Wicomico County - Orphans' Court Judge - Annual Salary**

---

This bill increases, from \$11,600 to \$16,000, the annual salary for an orphans' court judge in Wicomico County. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the increases take effect at the beginning of the next terms of office. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Wicomico County expenditures increase by \$7,700 in FY 2027 and by \$13,200 in FY 2028 and beyond. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The current salary for an orphans' court judge in Wicomico County is \$11,600 annually. The salary is paid quarterly.

**Local Expenditures:** Wicomico County expenditures increase by \$7,700 in fiscal 2027 and by \$13,200 for fiscal 2028 and beyond. This analysis accounts for the terms of office for each of the three orphans' court judges beginning December 2026.

---

## **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1588 (Wicomico County Delegation) - Rules and Executive Nominations.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2026  
jg/jkb

---

Analysis by: Kayvon Samadani

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510