

**SOMERSET COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING OFFICE**

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February 15, 2022
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
11 Bladen St. Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and committee members. For the record, my name is Gene Adkins, and am the Finance Director for Somerset County. I am representing the County Commissioners here today, who are strongly in favor of passing SB 439 to change the salaries of many elected officials in our County. This bill is necessary because these salaries are only changeable by law since we are a County Commissioner form of government. The purpose of this bill, as Senator Carozza has stated, is to bring the mentioned salaries more in line with that of our peers and with other Counties.

Most of the salaries mentioned in the bill were last changed 4 years ago, but the County Roads Commissioners and the Orphans Court Judges were last changed in 2008. Somerset County salaries historically run behind those of other Counties. That is once again evident when you look at the States Attorney schedule, which was \$16,000 less than the other shore counties, prior to this bill. The Somerset County Commissioners request a favorable report and final passage of SB 439.

I am also here today to answer any questions on the calculations for the additional projected expenses to Somerset County, resulting from this bill.