

SB0074 Section 2-504 Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Judicial Proceedings Committee – January 26, 2022
Sponsor: Senator Jackson
Position: Support

Testimony of Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County

Thank you, Chairman Smith and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify in support of SB74. I would also like to thank Senator Jackson for sponsoring this Bill.

For the record, my name is Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. My testimony today is on behalf of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association, which represents the 24 elected Clerks of the Circuit Court in Maryland.

Our Clerk's Association is seeking an increase in the salary cap for the elected Clerks of the Circuit Courts. As you are probably aware, the legislature adjusts the maximum salary cap, but the actual salaries are set by the Board of Public Works. Today we are asking for legislation to raise the salary cap from \$124,500 to a total of \$146,500 so that the top salary that may be earned by a Clerk is comparable with the salaries for other similar positions. Once again, the actual salary would be set by the Board of Public Works.

Not all clerks receive the highest salary. The actual salary set by the Board of Public Works is based on the size of each jurisdiction, which are identified as Large, Medium-Large, Medium and Small. Currently there are five (5) large jurisdictions, which are Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties. There are six (6) Medium-Large jurisdictions, which are Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Washington Counties. There are six (6) Medium Jurisdictions and they are Allegany, Calvert, Cecil, St. Mary's, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. Finally, there are seven (7) Small

Jurisdictions and they are Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, and Talbot Counties.

By law, the Clerks cannot receive cost-of-living raises or other interim pay adjustments. Our salary is only set every four years in accordance with Maryland Constitution, Article 2, Section 35, which requires that our salary may not be changed during each term of office.

The Clerk's request to increase the salary cap is supported by Chief Judge Getty and Pamela Harris, the State Court Administrator. It should be noted that this request is included in the Judiciary's budget.

My colleagues will discuss the comparable salaries for other similar positions and the services that the Clerks perform for the citizens of Maryland.

Our Association hopes you will look favorably on SB 74. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.