

Register of Wills Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Cereta Lee

Position: FAV

The Register of Wills –

Works in the judiciary but we are under the Comptroller for our fiscal needs.

We are self-funded through the fees and taxes we collect.

Turn over approximately \$58 million to the general fund annually.

The Registers establish approximately:

34,000 new proceedings a year

Establish 14,000 hearings

Receive 700,000 filings and pleadings

Receive 22,000 wills of living residents for safe keeping

The Register of wills workload has steadily increased as the states population grows and ages.

During COVID with the Courthouse closed we still assisted the public in opening estates.

testimony for SB 232.pdf

Uploaded by: Joseph Griffin

Position: FAV

The Register of Wills maximum salary of \$124,500 has fallen behind the salaries of other judiciary positions

- Since 2018, the salaries for judiciary employees has increased a total of 16.5% with more coming in July.
- Registers make less than Court Administrators (\$143,721)
- Registers make less than Judiciary Assistant Administrators (\$146,000)
- There are now over 30 judiciary job classifications with higher top salaries than some of the Registers

Register of Wills in Maryland earn less than Register of Wills in neighboring jurisdictions including Pennsylvania, Washington DC

For the forgoing reasons, the Register of Wills respectfully request a salary ceiling adjustment to a maximum of \$146,500, which is an increase of approximately 17.7%

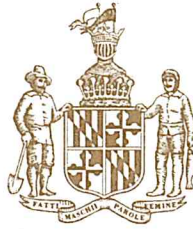
- This salary increase would bring the Register of Wills into the average salary range already being earned by Assistant Administrators in the Judiciary (i.e., \$146,000).
- The increase is in the ceiling and not the actual salary for each Register of Wills which is set by the Board of Public Works.
The salary for each county is based on population and case load. There are 5 large counties, 6- medium/large, 9- medium and 4 small.
- The increase in salary would not come out of the state budget as it is self-funded through the fees and taxes the Register of Wills collect.
- This increase of the salary ceiling has the support of Maryland Comptroller, Peter Franchot

JacksonSB232Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

MICHAEL A. JACKSON
Legislative District 27
Calvert, Charles and
Prince George's Counties



Annapolis Office
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3700 • 301-858-3700
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
250 Merrimac Court
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 232
REGISTERS OF WILLS – MAXIMUM SALARY
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2022

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 232 is a very straightforward bill that provides the enabling authority to raise the salaries of local Registers of Wills. Presently the maximum salary that Clerks can receive is \$124,500. This legislation would raise that maximum salary to \$146,500.

Throughout Maryland, Registers of Wills provide valuable services that include establishing over 30,000 estate proceedings each year. They are also tasked with taking in over 20,000 wills for the safekeeping of living residents, overseeing over 200 guardianships each year, and establishing over 13,000 hearings each year.

The salaries of Maryland Registers of Wills have fallen behind both their local counterparts and fellow officers of the Court. This legislation simply brings their salaries better in line with those who hold similar positions.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 232.