

HB0519 Circuit Court Clerks – Salary Increase
Judiciary Committee – March 2, 2022
Sponsors: Delegates Williams and Crutchfield
Position: Favorable

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

Thank you, Chairman Clippinger and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 519. I would also like to thank Delegates Williams and Crutchfield 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 you to raise the salary cap 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.

Not all clerks receive the highest salary. The actual salary set by BPW 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. They are Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties. There are six (6) Medium-Large jurisdictions. They are Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Washington Counties. There are six (6) Medium Jurisdictions. They are Allegany, Calvert, Cecil, St. Mary’s, Wicomico, and Worcester

Counties. There are seven (7) Small Jurisdictions. They include 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 Clerks have received the support from Chief Judge Getty and Pamela Harris, the State Court Administrator in our request to increase the salary cap for the elected Circuit Court Clerks. It should be noted that the Clerks budget is a part of the Judiciary's budget. Additionally, the crossed filed bill SB74, passed third reading in the Senate.

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 requests the committee issue a favorable report on HB 519. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I am available to answer any questions you may have.