

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 885

(Howard County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Howard County - Sheriff - Salary
Ho. Co. 03-22

This bill alters the annual salary of the Sheriff of Howard County by establishing that (1) for calendar year 2022 and each calendar year thereafter, the annual salary of the Sheriff is equal to the salary of a Major on step 6 of the Howard County Police Management Schedule for the first year of the Sheriff's term and (2) the salary of the Sheriff must increase annually according to the Howard County Police Management Schedule for as long as the individual holds the position of Sheriff. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increase takes effect at the beginning of the next term of office.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Howard County expenditures increase by a minimum of \$20,500 in FY 2023 and increase annually thereafter according to the Howard County Police Management schedule. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Pursuant to statute, the Sheriff of Howard County receives an annual salary of \$113,000 for calendar year 2022.

Article III, § 35 of the Maryland Constitution prohibits the salary or compensation of any public official from being increased or diminished during the individual's term of office,

except those whose full term is fixed by law more than four years. According to a letter from the counsel to the General Assembly, dated January 17, 1978, salary increases that are to be implemented over a period of time are permissible if implemented before the beginning of the term

Local Expenditures: Howard County expenditures increase by a minimum of \$20,500 in fiscal 2023 and \$35,100 in fiscal 2024; expenditures increase annually thereafter according to the Howard County Police Management Schedule. This estimate (1) is based on the current salary of a Major on step 6 of the Howard County Police Management Schedule (\$148,138); (2) assumes the next term of office begins December 2022; and (3) does not include fringe benefits.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Howard County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2022
fnu2/jkb Third Reader - March 10, 2022

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