

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 844

(Delegate Otto, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment and  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Somerset County - Salaries of Local Officials - Increase**

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This bill increases the salaries of certain public officials in Somerset County. Pursuant to constitutional requirements, the salary increases take effect at the beginning of the next terms of office.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Local expenditures increase by at least \$23,300 in FY 2027 and \$40,000 annually thereafter. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary/Current Law:** Current and proposed salary changes for public officials in Somerset County are shown in **Exhibit 1**.

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 in excess of four years.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Proposed Salary Changes for Somerset County Officials**

<b><u>Public Official</u></b>	<b><u>Current Salary</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Salary</u></b>
Sheriff	\$85,000	\$105,000
County Commissioner	10,000	12,000
County Commissioner – President	11,000	13,000
County Roads Board – Member	10,000	12,000
County Roads Board – President	11,000	13,000

Source: Department of Legislative Services

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**Local Expenditures:** Somerset County expenditures increase by at least \$23,300 in fiscal 2027 and by a minimum of \$40,000 annually thereafter, which accounts for the relevant terms of office beginning December 2026. As Somerset County did not respond to a request for information on the fiscal impact of the bill, the estimate does not account for any applicable fringe benefits.

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**Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 717 (Senator Carozza) - Education, Energy, and the Environment and Judicial Proceedings.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2025  
rh/jkb Third Reader - March 17, 2025

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