

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 772

(Senator Britt, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Environmental Matters

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**Prince George's County - State's Attorney's Office - Composition and Salaries**

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This bill increases the number of assistant State's Attorneys the Prince George's County State's Attorney may appoint from 73 to 80. In addition, the bill increases the maximum annual salary for a deputy State's Attorney (from \$108,000 to \$115,000), an assistant State's Attorney (from \$100,000 to \$107,000), and the State's Attorney's administrative assistant (from \$59,000 to \$64,000).

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County personnel expenditures would increase \$318,600 in FY 2008 and \$507,000 by FY 2012 for increasing the number of assistant State's Attorneys. Revenues would not be affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In Prince George's County, the State's Attorney may appoint two deputy State's Attorneys, 73 assistant State's Attorneys, and an administrative assistant. The salaries for these individuals are entirely within the discretion of the State's Attorney; however, they may not exceed a statutorily imposed limit. This bill increases that limit. The salaries for these individuals are paid by the county on the certification of the State's Attorney to the county executive and county council.

**Background:** The composition of the Prince George’s County State’s Attorney’s Office was last changed by Chapter 336 of 2003. The Act increased the maximum number of assistant State’s Attorneys from 65 to 73. In addition, it increased the maximum annual salary for a deputy State’s Attorney (from \$97,000 to \$108,000), an assistant State’s Attorney (from \$90,000 to \$100,000), and the State’s Attorney’s administrative assistant (from \$53,000 to \$59,000).

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Prince George’s County personnel expenditures would increase by \$318,553 in fiscal 2008 and by \$506,507 in fiscal 2012 for increasing the number of assistant State’s Attorneys. This estimate assumes seven entry-level assistant State’s Attorneys making \$48,000 annually and a county fringe benefit contribution rate of 26.41%. It also assumes that all seven new positions would be filled on the October 1, 2007 effective date of the bill. Future years reflect an annual salary growth rate of 4.5%. Prince George’s County advises that predicting annual salary growth for these positions is difficult since they would be exempt personnel. To the extent that the county does not hire entry-level assistant State’s Attorneys or future salary increases deviate from the assumption, the estimate would adjust accordingly.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Expenditure Increase for Seven Additional Assistant State’s Attorneys**  
**Fiscal 2008-2012**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Fringe Benefits</u>	<u>Total Increase</u>
2008	\$252,000	\$66,553	\$318,553
2009	351,120	92,731	443,851
2010	366,920	96,904	463,824
2011	383,432	101,264	484,696
2012	400,686	105,821	506,507

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The fiscal impact associated with increasing the maximum salaries of the deputy State’s Attorneys, assistant State’s Attorneys, and the State’s Attorney’s administrative assistant cannot be reliably quantified at this time, as it would depend on the amount of salary increase above the current salary cap. Prince George’s County advises, however, that none of the individuals in these positions make the current maximum salary.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 928 of 2006, a bill containing similar provisions, passed the House, received a favorable report from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and passed the Senate on second reading. No further action was taken, however.

**Cross File:** None designated, although HB 500 is identical.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 12, 2007  
ncs/hlb

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