

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 470 (Delegate Otto)
Environmental Matters

**Somerset County - County Treasurer - Abolishment and Transfer of Functions to
the County Supervisor of Tax Collection**

This bill abolishes the elected office of County Treasurer in Somerset County and transfers all functions and responsibilities to the Somerset County Supervisor of Tax Collection. The Somerset County Commissioners must appoint a Supervisor of Tax Collection who is required to work with the Tax Collection Office as part of the Finance Department under the direction of the Finance Director.

The bill does not affect the term of office of the incumbent County Treasurer and the individual serving as County Treasurer must remain in office for the balance of the term, under specified conditions.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Somerset County expenditures decrease by approximately \$4,000 in FY 2014, \$34,000 in FY 2015, and by \$60,000 annually beginning in FY 2016. County revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Four counties in Maryland have an elected county treasurer: Calvert, St. Mary's, Somerset, and Washington.

Background: The Somerset County Treasurer is elected to a four-year term and is responsible for receiving and collecting all State and county taxes, conducting tax sales, depositing and distributing collected taxes, and recording uncollected bills. The Somerset County Treasurer's Office consists of five full-time positions – the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, and three clerks. Somerset County's fiscal 2013 budget includes total salaries for the Treasurer's Office of \$168,700, including \$60,000 for both the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer.

Local Fiscal Effect: Somerset County currently has an interim Treasurer who was recently appointed to finish the term of the previous Treasurer who died unexpectedly in November 2012. In addition, the current Deputy Treasurer has indicated that she will retire at the end of the current term, which concludes in December 2014. As a result of these events, Somerset County intends to (1) shift the responsibilities of the Treasurer to the new position of Supervisor of Tax Collection, who is the current interim Treasurer; (2) eliminate the position of Deputy Treasurer; and (3) hire a part-time clerk to assist the current clerks in the Treasurer's Office. In addition, the county intends to relocate the current Treasurer's staff to the Finance Department, which is located in the main county office building.

As a result of these shifts, Somerset County estimates that administrative expenditures will decrease by \$4,000 in fiscal 2014; and that salary and administrative expenditures will decrease by \$34,000 in fiscal 2015 (which represents the year the current Deputy Treasurer retires), and by approximately \$60,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2016.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None listed; however, SB 154 is an identical bill.

Information Source(s): Somerset County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2013
mc/hlb

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