

SENATE BILL 628

N2, D1

5lr1833
CF 5lr2679

By: **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee and Senators Lam and McKay**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Estates and Trusts – Registers of Wills – Salary**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the maximum annual salary of a register of wills; repealing as
4 obsolete a certain minimum annual salary for the register of wills for Baltimore City;
5 and generally relating to the salary of a register of wills.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Estates and Trusts
8 Section 2–205
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Estates and Trusts**

14 2–205.

15 (a) (1) It is the intent of this section that each register shall receive a fair and
16 adequate compensation for the effort and duties required of the register by the register's
17 office.

18 (2) The volume and character of work done by the register shall be in
19 comparison to the salary fixed by the Board of Public Works for each of the other registers.

20 (b) (1) Each register is entitled to receive an annual salary of not more than
21 [\$146,500, to be determined in each instance by the Board of Public Works] **THE SALARY**
22 **OF A STATE EMPLOYEE AT GRADE 26, STEP 20 OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **STANDARD AND BARGAINING SALARY SCALE IN EFFECT ON THE DAY BEFORE THE**
2 **DAY THAT THE REGISTER BEGINS A NEW TERM OF OFFICE.**

3 **(2) ANY CHANGE IN THE SALARY PAID UNDER THE STATE OF**
4 **MARYLAND STANDARD AND BARGAINING SALARY SCALE DURING THE TERM OF**
5 **OFFICE OF A REGISTER MAY NOT APPLY TO THE INCUMBENT REGISTER, BUT THE**
6 **CHANGED RATE SHALL TAKE EFFECT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT FOLLOWING**
7 **TERM OF OFFICE.**

8 **(3) THE SALARY OF EACH REGISTER SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE**
9 **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.**

10 **[(2)] (4)** In determining the annual salary of the register, the Board of
11 Public Works shall be guided in the exercise of its discretion by:

12 (i) The population of the county determined by the last official
13 United States census;

14 (ii) The dollar volume of total fees and taxes collected and excess fees
15 turned over to the State for each of the preceding 5 years by the office of the register for
16 which the salary is being fixed; and

17 (iii) Other pertinent data which have relation to the reasonableness
18 of the salary in relation to the work done and volume handled by the office.

19 (c) [The minimum annual salary for the register in Baltimore City is \$12,000.

20 (d)] (1) The salaries of the registers shall be paid semimonthly from the fees
21 and receipts of the office, after deducting the expenses of the office.

22 (2) Expenses include salaries of deputies and clerks, books, stationery,
23 office supplies, and other necessary and customary expenses of doing business.

24 **[(e)] (D)** (1) (i) If the fees and receipts of the office are insufficient in any
25 fiscal year to pay all or a part of the expenses of the office and authorized salary of a
26 register, the deficiency shall be funded from the taxes remitted to the Comptroller by the
27 register during that fiscal year.

28 (ii) Written authority for the transfer of funds shall be first obtained
29 from the Comptroller.

30 (2) In the event that tax collections for the fiscal year are insufficient, the
31 Comptroller shall make up the deficit from excess fees remitted from all other registers.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in accordance with Article
33 III, § 35 of the Maryland Constitution, this Act may not be construed to extend or apply to

1 the salary or compensation of the register of wills while serving in a term of office beginning
2 before the effective date of this Act, but the provisions of this Act concerning the salary or
3 compensation of the register of wills shall take effect at the beginning of the next following
4 term of office. This limitation does not apply to an individual appointed or elected after the
5 effective date of this Act to fill out an unexpired term.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2025.