

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 47-2021

Introduced: June 7, 2021

Auditor: Edward Shulder

Fiscal Impact:

The Administration estimates that this bill will increase County expenditures by approximately \$877,000 and \$1.8 million in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023, respectively. We reviewed the Administration's calculations and found them to be reasonable. The FY 2022 budget includes funding for the FY 2022 salary increases. The bill has no impact on County revenues.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to approve a multi-year collective bargaining agreement between Howard County and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 2000, that will be effective through the end of FY 2023 and that includes payment of certain compensation in future fiscal years.

The agreement includes a 1.5 percent across-the-board increase effective December 20, 2021, and a 2 percent across-the-board increase effective December 19, 2022. It also adds a longevity step for Fire Lieutenants.

Other Comments:

Legislation approving collective bargaining agreements is usually included in the annual budget legislation. The contract was going through the ratification process and a final decision was not made in time for it to be filed as part of the budget legislation.

The increase in expenditures resulting from this bill does not impact general funds, as these costs are paid from the Fire & Rescue Reserve Fund.