

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 3-2022

Introduced: January 4, 2022

Auditor: Michael A. Martin

Fiscal Impact:

This legislation will result in additional expenditures of \$16,512 per Councilmember, for a total of \$82,560 over the course of the next four years. This increase is comprised of the following cost items:

- Salary \$10,585
- Statutory/Retirement \$2,027
- Communication Service Stipend \$2,400
- Technology Device Stipend \$1,500

Please note that the proposed Councilmember pay of \$73,663 in December 2022 is a 1.4 percent increase over their current salary. The estimated range of inflation in Calendar Year 2022 that was published by the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee in December 2021 was noted as 2.2 to 3 percent.

The Council Chairperson would continue to receive an additional \$3,500 annually.

Purpose:

This legislation proposes to set the annual compensation, effective in December 2022, for members of the Howard County Council.

This legislation includes the following recommendations of the Compensation Review Commission:

- Establish a starting salary of \$73,663 in the first year of the term, beginning December 2022, which increases annually in equal amounts so that the salary in the fourth year of the term is \$83,256.
- Increase the monthly communication service stipend per Councilmember from \$150 to \$200.
- Allocate \$1,500 to each Councilmember for reimbursement of technology and electronic device expenses within the 4-year term.

Other Comments:

The method of escalating Councilmember salaries annually has changed. Previously, the salary was set to increase each year by the annual change in the CPI-U.