



CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

FISCAL IMPACT NOTE

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

SPONSOR: Council President Bowsbey at the request of the County Executive

RESOLUTION NO. 33-2017 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – ORPHANS' COURT, COUNTY COUNCIL, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DIVISION, AND THE MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

SYNOPSIS: A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 in order to provide additional expenditure appropriation in the General Fund of \$3,750 for the Orphan's Court, \$20,000 for the County Council's advertising expenditure, \$36,360 for the temporary salaries for the Department of Public Works Roads Division's seasonal workers and interns, \$5,005 for the tuition costs for students attending the Maryland School for the Blind. The resolution also reduces the expenditure appropriation within the Department of Public Works Engineering and Construction Division by \$65,115 within the General Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY: Net fiscal impact to the County will be zero for Fiscal 2018. The errors and omissions that were uncovered after the proposed FY2018 budget was introduced to Council will offset and result in no additional expenditure authority.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

During the FY2018 budget creation process, the Orphan's Court salary projection was automatically loaded into the budget projection, the actual FY2017 salary amount populated the fields for the Orphan's Court judges. The budgeted amount of \$8,750 per judge annually was not confirmed to necessitate the increase based on FY2014 Maryland State Legislation (SB 936) and was proposed and approved by Council at the old rate. Based on the adopted legislation, the judges are to receive an annual salary of \$8,750, thus the budget needs to be increased by \$3,750 (3 judges X \$1,250 each). This is the final increase to the rate as dictated by SB 936.

Based on the Department of Finance's introduction of legislation to eliminate the printing of the County's over \$500 vendor payment list from the newspaper, the advertising budget associated with this expenditure was eliminated from the FY2018 budget. The advertising budget within the County Council's budget is utilized for more than the printing of the vendor list, it also serves to pay the expenditures associated with advertising all legal notices that are required of Council by the Charter. The amendment restores the budget to the requested level of \$20,000.

The salary and fringe information for all positions within the FY2018 budget were populated electronically through the budget module with the County's general ledger software. At times the process will copy over or zero out temporary or contractual employee types. Although it is a known shortcoming of the system, the budget for the Roads Division temporary and seasonal workers was eliminated and not corrected prior to budget submission to Council. The budget restores \$36,360 of funding for this expenditure.

The Annotated Code of Maryland § 8-310 Maryland School for the Blind -- Payments by counties states, "Each county board shall pay the Maryland School for the Blind an amount equal to the local share of the basic cost as defined in § 8-415(d) (1) of this title, for each blind child who is sent to the school from the county each year to support the cost of instructional programming. (2) Each county governing body shall include a child sent to the Maryland School for the Blind under paragraph (1) of this subsection in the full-time equivalent enrollment used for calculating the required local funds appropriated under §5-202(d) of this article." The second semester bill (received in 1st qtr of 2017) for the Cecil County students that attend the Maryland School for the Blind revealed there are additional students attending the school. The FY2018 budget does not reflect the change in the number of students and the amendment adds additional expenditure authority to pay the FY2018 tuition bill.

The budget for the Department of Public Works Engineering & Construction Division included the amount of \$65,115 for expendable equipment. The budget copied into the FY2018 budget projection included this amount based on the FY2017 budget and was not removed prior to the proposed budget being introduced to Council. This budget item was recommended for elimination during the FY2018 deliberations, and as the County Executive's budget was passed as proposed, the line item was not removed and serves to offset the errors previously mentioned in this amendment.