

2-205.

(a) It is the intent of this section that each register shall receive a fair and adequate compensation for the effort and duties required of him by his office. The volume and character of work done by him as register shall be in comparison to the salary fixed by the Board of Public Works for each of the other registers.

(b) Each register is entitled to receive an annual salary of not less than \$6,000 and not more than ~~[\$37,500]~~ ~~\$50,000~~ \$45,000, to be determined in each instance by the Board of Public Works. In determining the annual salary of the register, the Board of Public Works shall be guided in the exercise of its discretion by

(1) The population of the county determined by the last official United States census;

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

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

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

(d) The salaries of the registers shall be paid semimonthly from the fees and receipts of the office, after deducting the expenses of the office. Expenses include salaries of deputies and clerks, books, stationery, office supplies, and other necessary and customary expenses of doing business.

(e) If the fees and receipts of the office are insufficient in any month to pay all or a part of the expenses of the office and authorized salary of a register, the deficiency shall be deducted by the register for that month, from the taxes due the State Comptroller from the office for that month. Written authority for the deduction shall be first obtained from the State Comptroller. In the event that tax collections for the month are insufficient, the Comptroller shall make up the deficit from funds provided in the state budget for this purpose.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, pursuant to Article III, § 35, of the Constitution of Maryland, this Act may not be construed to extend or apply to the salary or compensation of the Registers of Wills in office on the effective date of this Act, but the provisions of this Act concerning the salary or compensation of the Registers of Wills shall take effect at the beginning of the next following term of office.