

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

2-309.

(w) (1) The Sheriff of Washington County shall receive a salary of **[\$55,000]** \$67,500. The Sheriff shall appoint a chief deputy at a salary level set by the County Commissioners. The Sheriff may appoint deputy sheriffs and other personnel necessary to perform the duties of office at salary levels set by the County Commissioners in accordance with the County's budgetary process.

(2) Any deputy sheriff appointed according to this section shall be placed on a probationary status for the first year of his employment, and may be dismissed by the Sheriff for any reason during that probationary period. At the conclusion of twelve months' continuous employment, a deputy sheriff having the rank of lieutenant or below has tenure, and may be discharged by the Sheriff only for misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, or insubordination in office.

(3) If the Sheriff of Washington County approves after considering personnel needs, the County Commissioners may authorize a deputy sheriff to perform off-duty services for any person who agrees to pay a fee, including but not limited to, hourly rates for off-duty service, any necessary insurance to be determined by the Commissioners, including any fringe benefits and the reasonable rental cost of uniforms or other equipment used by any off-duty personnel.

(4) (i) The Sheriff of Washington County may appoint special deputy sheriffs, including members of the police force of a Washington County municipality who are:

1. Selected by the chief of police of the municipality; and
2. Verified by the chief of police of the municipality as having achieved at least the minimum level of training for police duties in a municipality as designated by the Maryland Police Training Commission.

(ii) The appointment of special deputy sheriffs is subject to the following conditions:

1. The Sheriff shall assign the special deputy sheriff who is a member of the police force to duties in the municipality where the special deputy sheriff is a member of the police force, or in the surrounding area;
2. The Sheriff may terminate the appointment of the special deputy sheriff for cause or on completion of the assignment for which he was appointed;
3. The special deputy sheriff is not an employee of Washington County for the purpose of employment security or employee benefits; and
4. County liability insurance shall be provided to a special deputy sheriff only when he is acting within his official duties.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, pursuant to Article III, Section 35 of the Constitution of Maryland, this Act may not be construed to extend or