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February 18, 2015

Senator Jeanette White
Chairperson, Senate Government Operations Committee

Re: Financial Impact of S.57 (An Act Relating to Fees Paid to Deputy Sheriffs)

Dear Senator White:

This letter responds to your request for information regarding the financial impact of S.57, *An Act Relating to Fees Paid to Deputy Sheriffs*, if passed by the General Assembly.

This bill is expenditure-neutral. The sheriffs' per diem budget for prisoner transports is controlled by the statewide budget appropriation for per diem prisoner transports. In specific, the FY16 Governor's Recommended Budget would appropriate the sum of \$441,688 (Vantage Code #506099) for prisoner transports statewide. Assuming that the FY16 Recommended Budget is adopted by the General Assembly, the sheriffs would have no more than \$441,688 to fund prisoner transports performed by "per diem" deputies – regardless of whether S.57 passes or fails.

The positive attribute of S.57 from the sheriffs' perspective is that it allows the sheriffs greater flexibility in allocating the statewide per diem budget to each county sheriff's department in proportion to the actual costs incurred by each county sheriff's department for its prisoner transports. This flexible, cost-derived reimbursement scheme – subject to available appropriations – would replace the current flat rate of \$18/hour. The current flat rate bears no relation to the sheriffs' actual costs, which vary significantly based upon the local labor market and the seniority of the deputies used in the transport.

Best Wishes,

David J. Cahill