
By: **Harford County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Judiciary, March 6, 2003

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2003

CHAPTER 198

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Harford County - Circuit Court - Attorney Appearance Fee**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain attorney appearance fee payable to the Clerk of
4 Circuit Court for Harford County; and generally relating to attorneys appearing
5 in the Circuit Court for Harford County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 7-204(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2002 Replacement Volume)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
13 Section 7-204(n)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2002 Replacement Volume)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

2 7-204.

3 (a) (1) Except in Montgomery County and except as provided in paragraph
4 (2) of this subsection for Baltimore County, in paragraph (3) of this subsection for St.
5 Mary's County, [and] in paragraph (4) of this subsection for Baltimore City, AND IN
6 PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR HARFORD COUNTY, the clerk of each circuit
7 court shall:

8 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
9 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

10 (ii) Charge as costs a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
11 counsel when prosecuting or defending a criminal action in the court; and

12 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
13 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

14 (2) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County shall:

15 (i) Collect, in advance, the following fee for docketing the
16 appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a civil action:

17 1. A \$20 fee for an action, including the collection of money
18 due on mortgage, in a court of equity; and

19 2. A \$10 fee for an action at law in a court of original
20 jurisdiction;

21 (ii) Charge as costs the following fee for docketing the appearance
22 of counsel when bringing or defending a criminal action:

23 1. If the punishment for the offense charged is death or
24 confinement in the State penitentiary, a \$20 fee; and

25 2. For any other criminal action, a \$10 fee; and

26 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
27 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

28 (3) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County shall collect, in
29 advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of counsel when bringing or
30 defending a civil action in the court.

31 (4) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City shall:

32 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
33 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

1 (ii) Charge as costs the following fee for docketing the appearance
2 of counsel when bringing or defending a criminal action:

3 1. If the punishment for the offense charged is death or
4 confinement in the State penitentiary, a \$20 fee; and

5 2. For any other criminal action, a \$10 fee; and

6 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
7 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

8 (5) THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HARFORD COUNTY SHALL:

9 (I) COLLECT, IN ADVANCE, A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE
10 APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN BRINGING OR DEFENDING A CIVIL ACTION IN THE
11 COURT;

12 (II) CHARGE AS COSTS A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE
13 APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN PROSECUTING OR DEFENDING A CRIMINAL
14 ACTION IN THE COURT; AND

15 (III) COLLECT, IN ADVANCE, A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE
16 APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN BRINGING OR DEFENDING A CASE IN THE COURT
17 OF APPEALS.

18 (n) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County shall retain all
19 appearance fees collected by the Clerk under this section for the general use of the
20 court library of the county, including the necessary expenses for books and library
21 equipment and the cost for the services of a librarian.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2003.