

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 631  
Judiciary

(Delegate Otto)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Somerset County - Fines and Forfeitures - Distribution**

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This bill requires the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Somerset County to transmit fine and specified forfeiture revenues to the Court and Bar Library Account.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially impact the Judiciary.

**Local Effect:** Approximately \$2,300 in FY 2019 and \$3,500 annually thereafter is redirected from Somerset County's general fund to the Court and Bar Library Account.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** Generally, fines, penalties, and forfeitures that are recovered must be paid to the county in which the crime occurred. In all but Anne Arundel, Howard, and Somerset counties, a portion of the fines imposed by and recognizances forfeited to each circuit court are distributed to the clerk of the circuit court and used under the direction of the circuit court judges to augment the court library.

Somerset County has a Court and Bar Library Account, which is supported only by appearance fees collected by the circuit courts. Somerset County advises that additional funds are needed for necessary repairs to the circuit court, including the refurbishing of benches in the main courtroom and the repair of the bar library ceiling.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Somerset County estimates that approximately \$2,265 in fiscal 2019, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2018 effective date, and \$3,500 annually thereafter is redirected from the county's general fund to the clerk of the circuit court and transmitted to the Court and Bar Library Account. The bill does not otherwise materially impact local finances.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Somerset County; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2018  
mm/kdm Third Reader - March 2, 2018

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