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**By: Senator Jimeno**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 1996

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Divorce Actions - Additional Filing Fee for Domestic Violence Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the clerk of a circuit court to collect an additional filing fee  
4 for docketing an action for a limited or absolute divorce; requiring the clerk to pay  
5 the proceeds from the additional fee to the county each month; requiring the  
6 proceeds to be used in addition to certain funds to fund certain domestic violence  
7 programs; requiring the county to prepare and make available a certain annual  
8 report; and generally relating to circuit court costs and charges.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
11 Section 7-202  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

17 7-202.

18 (a) (1) (I) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS  
19 SUBSECTION, THE State Court Administrator shall determine the amount of all court  
20 costs and charges for the circuit courts of the counties with the approval of the Board of  
21 Public Works. The fees and charges shall be uniform throughout the State.

22 [(2)] (II) The Comptroller of the State shall require clerks of court to collect  
23 all fees required to be collected by law.

24 (2) (I) THE CLERK SHALL COLLECT AN ADDITIONAL \$75 FILING FEE  
25 FOR DOCKETING AN ACTION FOR A LIMITED OR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE.

26 (II) THE CLERK SHALL PAY THE PROCEEDS FROM THE  
27 ADDITIONAL FEE TO THE COUNTY EACH MONTH.

28 (III) THE PROCEEDS, IN ADDITION TO DESIGNATED FEDERAL,  
29 STATE, AND COUNTY FUNDS, SHALL BE USED TO FUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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1 PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 4, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE FAMILY LAW  
2 ARTICLE.

3 (IV) THE COUNTY SHALL PREPARE AND MAKE AVAILABLE AN  
4 ANNUAL REPORT ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR ON THE DISPOSITION  
5 OF FEES COLLECTED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH DURING THE PREVIOUS FISCAL  
6 YEAR.

7 (b) The clerk may not charge the State, any county, municipality, or Baltimore  
8 City any fee provided by this subtitle, unless the State, county, municipality, or Baltimore  
9 City first gives its consent.

10 (c) The clerk is entitled to a reasonable fee for performing any other service that  
11 is not enumerated in this subtitle or in §§ 3-601 through 3-603 of the Real Property  
12 Article of the Code.

13 (d) If a party in a proceeding feels aggrieved by any fee permitted under this  
14 subtitle or by §§ 3-601 through 3-603 of the Real Property Article of the Code, the party  
15 may request a judge of that circuit court to determine the reasonableness of the fee.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 1996.