
By: Delegate C. Mitchell

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City - Bail Bonds**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Governor to appoint a bail bond commissioner for
4 Baltimore City for certain purposes; requiring in the Circuit Court for Baltimore
5 City bondsmen to pay to the court a certain license fee; providing that the fee shall
6 be used for certain purposes; providing for the allocation of a certain fee collected
7 from the value of all bonds written in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City; making
8 a stylistic change; and generally relating to bond license fees and the appointment of
9 a bail bond commissioner in Baltimore City.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
12 Section 616 1/2(f)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

18 616 1/2.

19 (f) (1) (I) The circuit courts for each of the counties are authorized to
20 prescribe by rule of court the terms and conditions of bail bonds filed in the circuit court
21 for each county respectively. This power includes but is not limited to prescribing the
22 qualifications of and fees charged by bondsmen. A bond commissioner may be appointed
23 to administer the rules of court adopted pursuant to this section. Violations of any rule of
24 court promulgated hereunder shall be considered contempt of court and punished as for
25 contempt. In addition a person may not engage in the business of becoming surety for
26 compensation on bonds in criminal cases until he shall have been approved by such rules
27 as the circuit court may have adopted and, if required under the provisions of Article 48A
28 of the Code, licensed in accordance with Article 48A of the Code.

29 (II) IN BALTIMORE CITY A BAIL BOND COMMISSIONER MAY BE
30 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO ADMINISTER THE RULES OF COURT ADOPTED
31 UNDER THIS SECTION. IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
32 BONDSMEN SHALL PAY TO THE COURT A LICENSE FEE OF 1% OF THE GROSS VALUE

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1 OF ALL BONDS WRITTEN IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, PROVIDED THAT THE FEE IS
2 APPROVED BY THE CIRCUIT COURT. OF THIS FEE, ONE-HALF SHALL BE USED FOR
3 THE PAYMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCIDENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS
4 SECTION, AND ONE-HALF SHALL BE USED FOR ANY EXPENSES OF THE BALTIMORE
5 CITY PUBLIC SAFETY TRUST FUND.

6 (2) In the circuit courts for the Seventh Judicial Circuit, the bondsmen so
7 approved under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall pay a license fee of 1 [percent] %
8 of the gross value of all bonds written in all courts of the circuit, provided that this fee is
9 approved by the court of the county in which it applies. The fee shall be paid to the court
10 as prescribed by the rules of court. The fee shall be used for the payment of any expenses
11 incident to the administration of this section. Any absolute bond forfeitures collected may
12 be used to defray the above expenses.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 1997.