

CF 7r2156

By: Senators Young, Conway, Blount, Della, Hoffman, and Hughes

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City - Bail Bonds**

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

31 (II) IN BALTIMORE CITY A BAIL BOND COMMISSIONER SHALL BE
32 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO ADMINISTER THE RULES OF COURT ADOPTED

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1 UNDER THIS SECTION. IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
2 AND IN THE DISTRICT COURT, BONDSMEN SHALL PAY TO THE COURT A LICENSE FEE
3 OF 1% OF THE GROSS VALUE OF ALL BONDS WRITTEN IN THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
4 THE DISTRICT COURT AND BAIL BOND LICENSE FEES OF 11% MUST BE PAID IN FULL
5 UPON POSTING, PROVIDED THAT THE FEE IS APPROVED BY THE CIRCUIT COURT
6 AND THE DISTRICT COURT. OF THIS FEE, ONE-HALF SHALL BE USED FOR THE
7 PAYMENT OF ANY EXPENSES INCIDENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS SECTION,
8 AND ONE-HALF SHALL BE USED FOR ANY EXPENSES OF THE BALTIMORE CITY
9 PUBLIC SAFETY TRUST FUND.

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

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