

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 198 (Senator Baker)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Cecil County - Fines and Forfeitures and Appearance Fees - Use of Funds for Charitable and Educational Purposes**

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This bill provides that in any year in which the fine, recognizance forfeiture, and attorney appearance fee revenues held for the use of the Cecil County Circuit Court law library exceed the amount necessary for the maintenance of the library, the Cecil County Bar and Library Association, Inc. may transfer the excess funds to the Cecil County Bar Foundation, Inc. to be used for charitable and educational purposes. The judges of the Circuit Court for Cecil County are required to consult with the Law Library Committee of the Cecil County Bar and Library Association, Inc. in directing the sums to be paid to the library and/or the Bar Foundation.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. This bill would not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill primarily alters the purposes for which existing funds may be used. To the extent it requires procedural changes, it is expected that Cecil County can handle them with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**Background:** In most jurisdictions, including Cecil County, one-half of fine and recognizance forfeiture revenue received by the circuit court is required to be used to augment the court library under the direction of the judges of the court. Revenue from appearance fees paid by attorneys is also required to be used for library purposes. In Cecil County only, if in any year the library's allocation would be less than \$10,000, the County Commissioners must pay whatever is necessary to bring the library's allocation to \$10,000. The Cecil County Commissioners may pay additional sums as they consider reasonable for the proper maintenance of the library. In fiscal 1997, one-half of fine and recognizance forfeiture revenue plus appearance fees received by Cecil County Circuit Court amounted to \$8,500.

**Small Business Effect:** Cecil County Bar Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization, could receive more money to give to charity as a result of this bill.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 1998  
Inc Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 13, 1998

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