
By: **Delegate C. Davis**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 1999

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
13 Section 616 1/2(f)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

18 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

19 616 1/2.

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

1 under the provisions of the Insurance Article, licensed in accordance with the
2 Insurance Article.

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

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

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
23 effect October 1, 1999.