

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 490 (Delegate Conway, *et al.*)

Judiciary

Wicomico County - Appearance Fees - Court Library

This bill requires the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County to deposit not less than monthly all appearance fees collected into a special account to be known as the "Court and Bar Library Account." The account shall be for the general use of the court library and for the maintenance and improvement of the court's facilities and equipment. Funds in the account shall be disbursed on the approval of the county administrative judge.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Wicomico County Circuit Court would be able to use revenue from counsel appearance fees for expanded purposes, but revenue levels would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Except in Montgomery, Baltimore, and St. Mary's counties and Baltimore City, the clerk of each circuit court must collect \$10 for docketing the appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a civil or criminal action in circuit court or a case in the Court of Appeals. The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County must deposit all appearance fees collected into a special account known as the "Bar Library Account." The account must be used for purchasing and maintaining legal publications recommended by the Wicomico County Bar Association and approved by the County Administrative Judge for Wicomico County. The account must also be used to pay the salary of a librarian if a librarian is considered necessary by the Wicomico County Bar Association.

Local Fiscal Effect: *Wicomico County did not respond to requests for information*

regarding the fiscal impact of this bill. Accordingly, the Department of Legislative Services does not have any information on the amount of appearance fees currently collected in Wicomico County.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2000
drg/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 15, 2000

Analysis by: Claire E. Rooney

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510