

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 143 (Senator Kellev. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Family Law - Issuance of Marriage Licenses - Location of Marriage

This bill repeals the requirement that a marriage license be issued by the clerk of the circuit court for the county in which the marriage is performed. The clerk for any county may issue a marriage license that is valid anywhere in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to have a significant impact on local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A marriage license must be issued by the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which the marriage is to be performed.

Marriage license fees are county revenues. The basic statewide fee is \$10. Counties are authorized to charge an additional fee of up to \$65 to fund domestic violence programs.

Local Revenues: While it is possible that some minor shifts may occur in the numbers of marriage licenses issued by jurisdictions as a result of the bill, a major shift is not expected. The variation in fees among the counties is not sufficient to cause people to shop around for cheaper marriage license fees. Any change would probably be based on convenience in situations where the couple to be married do not live in the county in which they plan to be

married. As a result of the bill, such a couple could obtain their marriage license in their home county rather than having to make a special trip to the court house in the county where they plan to be married.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Allegany, Prince George's, and Wicomico counties; Baltimore City; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2000

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