

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 672

(Washington County Delegation)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Washington County - Marriage License Fees

This bill provides that, of the \$10 basic marriage license fee, the clerk of the circuit court in Washington County will retain \$5 and the remaining \$5 will be paid to the county commissioners to fund battered spouse shelters and domestic violence programs. The bill also increases, from \$50 to \$55, the maximum amount of an additional fee that may be charged for each marriage license in Washington County to fund battered spouse shelters and domestic violence programs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not directly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: Washington County marriage license fee revenues earmarked for battered spouse shelters and domestic violence programs could increase as a result of the bill.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The basic statewide fee for a marriage license is \$10, of which \$5 is retained by the clerk of the circuit court and \$5 is disbursed to the county general fund. In Washington County, the Board of County Commissioners may set an additional fee of up to \$50 for each license to fund battered spouse shelters and domestic violence programs.

Local Revenues: Washington County advises that the bill codifies the county's current practice of disbursing \$5 from each \$10 marriage license fee to domestic violence programs. The remaining \$5 is retained by the clerk of the court. To the extent that the county commissioners increase the additional marriage license fee as a result of the bill, revenues payable to battered spouse shelters and domestic violence programs would increase.

In fiscal 2000, Washington County took in a total of approximately \$68,000 in marriage license fee revenue.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – February 15, 2001
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