

HOUSE BILL 825

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HB 716/01 - APP

2002 Regular Session  
2lr0985  
CF 2lr0984

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By: **Chairman, Appropriations Committee (Maryland Judicial Conference)**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2002

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Circuit Courts - Rental of Space for Clerks of Court**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each State budget to include a certain appropriation to  
4 the Department of General Services to pay rent to counties, including Baltimore  
5 City, for certain space occupied by clerks of the circuit courts; establishing the  
6 amount of the rent; prohibiting reimbursement of certain costs; prohibiting a  
7 county from decreasing the square footage allocated to the clerk of the circuit  
8 court below a certain amount, unless the county and the Administrative Office  
9 of the Courts agree otherwise; requiring counties to use the savings resulting  
10 from this Act for the circuit courts or related public safety purposes; requiring  
11 certain reports on certain expenditures; providing for the construction of this  
12 Act; and generally relating to rental of space for clerks of the circuit courts.

13 BY adding to  
14 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
15 Section 1-504  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1998 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

21 1-504.

22 (A) THERE SHALL BE INCLUDED IN EACH STATE BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION  
23 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT NECESSARY  
24 TO PAY RENT DIRECTLY TO COUNTIES FOR SPACE OCCUPIED IN COUNTY FACILITIES  
25 BY CLERKS OF THE CIRCUIT COURTS, AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.

26 (B) THE RENT SHALL BE \$10 PER NET USABLE SQUARE FOOT, WITH NO  
27 ADDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENT OF MAINTENANCE AND UTILITY COSTS.

1 (C) UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS AND A COUNTY  
2 AGREE OTHERWISE, THE COUNTY MAY NOT DECREASE THE NET USABLE SQUARE  
3 FOOTAGE ALLOCATED TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY  
4 BELOW THE NET USABLE SQUARE FOOTAGE ALLOTTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as expressly  
6 provided in this Act, this Act does not modify any existing duty, liability, or  
7 responsibility of the State, a county, or Baltimore City.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

9 (1) Beginning in fiscal year 2003 and each fiscal year thereafter, each county  
10 and Baltimore City shall use the savings resulting from this Act solely to increase  
11 local expenditures for the circuit courts or related public safety purposes;

12 (2) In fiscal years 2003 through 2010, each county and Baltimore City shall  
13 report to the Department of Budget and Management on or before November 1 on  
14 circuit court or related public safety expenditures to which the savings resulting from  
15 this Act have been applied. The Department of Budget and Management shall report  
16 these expenditures to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and, subject to § 2-1246  
17 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly; and

18 (3) Circuit court or related public safety expenditures required under this  
19 section shall be used to supplement and may not supplant existing local expenditures  
20 for the same purpose.

21 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 July 1, 2002.