

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1137

(Harford County Delegation)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Harford County - Circuit Court - Attorney Appearance Fee

This bill increases the attorney appearance fee for civil, criminal, and Court of Appeals cases charged by the Circuit Court for Harford County from \$10 to \$20.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: An estimated \$42,000 increase in revenues for the Circuit Court for Harford County in FY 2004, with additional increases in out-years if case filings continue to rise. Expenditures would not be affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Small law firms that practice before the Circuit Court of Harford County would incur increased expenditures.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, there is a statewide \$10 attorney appearance fee for civil and criminal cases filed in circuit court. The clerk of each circuit must also collect a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals. Special provisions apply for appearance of counsel fees in Baltimore City and Baltimore and St. Mary's counties. No such fee applies in Montgomery County.

All appearance fees collected by the Harford County Circuit Court are used to fund the court library.

Local Revenues: It is estimated that the Harford County Circuit Court will collect additional revenues of approximately \$42,000 pursuant to the bill. Since the number of filings typically increases each year, that number may be higher in fiscal 2005 through fiscal 2008.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 14, 2003
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