

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 517 (Chairman, Ways and Means Committee)  
(By Request – Departmental – Comptroller)

Ways and Means

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**Refunds Payable by Clerks of the Circuit Courts**

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This departmental bill clarifies that the clerks of the court may refund license fees and charges without additional authorization from the Comptroller.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Explicitly authorizing the clerks of the court to refund erroneously paid licenses or fees would not materially affect the Judiciary's or Comptroller's operations.

**Local Effect:** None (see above).

**Small Business Effect:** The Comptroller's Office has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** There is no provision of law which explicitly authorizes the clerks of the court to issue a refund for erroneously paid license fees or charges payable to the clerks of the court. As a result, the clerks often seek authorization from the Comptroller prior to issuing any refunds. The Comptroller approves refunds issued by the clerks.

**Background:** The bill is intended to simplify the procedure for issuing refunds to individuals for erroneously paid license fees or charges payable to the clerks of the court.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 2004  
mam/mdr

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