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By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2005

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County - Marriage License Fee - Increase**  
3 **Ho. Co. 12-05**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum amount of the additional marriage  
5 license fee that the Howard County Council is authorized to set; and generally  
6 relating to marriage license fees in Howard County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article - Family Law  
9 Section 2-404(a) and (b)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Family Law  
14 Section 2-404(1)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Family Law**

20 2-404.

- 21 (a) (1) The fee for a license is \$10.  
22 (2) The clerk shall:  
23 (i) retain \$5 of the fee; and  
24 (ii) pay \$5 of the fee into the general fund of the county.

1                   (3)     (i)     A party to be married may obtain a replacement for a valid  
2 marriage license while the license is valid.

3                               (ii)     The fee for a replacement license is \$10, payable into the  
4 General Fund of the State.

5     (b)     Expect as otherwise provided in this section:

6                   (1)     any county or group of 2 or more counties may set an additional fee of  
7 up to \$25 for each license; and

8                   (2)     the proceeds shall be used to fund domestic violence programs.

9     (1)     In Howard County:

10                   (1)     the County Council may set by resolution an additional fee [as  
11 authorized in this section] OF UP TO \$50 for each license;

12                   (2)     the clerk shall pay the proceeds from the additional fee to the  
13 Director of Finance of the county each month;

14                   (3)     the proceeds, in addition to designated federal, State, and county  
15 funds, shall be used to fund battered spouse shelters and domestic violence programs  
16 established under Title 4, Subtitle 5 of this article; and

17                   (4)     the County Executive shall prepare and make available an annual  
18 report on or before December 1 of each year on the disposition of fees collected under  
19 this subsection during the previous fiscal year.

20     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2005.