

# SENATE BILL 198

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CF HB 161

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By: **Chair, Anne Arundel County Senators**  
Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2012  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts and Judicial Proceedings – Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County –**  
3 **Fees for Appearance of Counsel**

4 FOR the purpose of altering certain appearance of counsel fees collected or charged by  
5 the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County; authorizing the Clerk  
6 of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County to collect a certain appearance of  
7 counsel fee; and generally relating to certain appearance of counsel fees.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
10 Section 7–204(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

16 7–204.

17 (a) (1) Except in Montgomery County and except as provided in  
18 paragraph (2) of this subsection for Baltimore County, in paragraph (3) of this  
19 subsection for St. Mary’s County, in paragraph (4) of this subsection for Baltimore  
20 City, [and] in paragraph (5) of this subsection for Harford County, **AND IN**  
21 **PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**, the clerk of  
22 each circuit court shall:

23 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of  
24 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) Charge as costs a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of  
2 counsel when prosecuting or defending a criminal action in the court; and

3 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of  
4 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

5 (2) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County shall:

6 (i) Collect, in advance, the following fee for docketing the  
7 appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a civil action:

8 1. A \$20 fee for an action, including the collection of  
9 money due on mortgage, in a court of equity; and

10 2. A \$10 fee for an action at law in a court of original  
11 jurisdiction;

12 (ii) Charge as costs the following fee for docketing the  
13 appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a criminal action:

14 1. If the punishment for the offense charged is death or  
15 confinement in the State penitentiary, a \$20 fee; and

16 2. For any other criminal action, a \$10 fee; and

17 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of  
18 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

19 (3) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County shall collect,  
20 in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of counsel when bringing or  
21 defending a civil action in the court.

22 (4) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City shall:

23 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of  
24 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

25 (ii) Charge as costs the following fee for docketing the  
26 appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a criminal action:

27 1. If the punishment for the offense charged is death or  
28 confinement in the State penitentiary, a \$20 fee; and

29 2. For any other criminal action, a \$10 fee; and

1 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of  
2 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

3 (5) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County shall:

4 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of  
5 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

6 (ii) Charge as costs a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of  
7 counsel when prosecuting or defending a criminal action in the court; and

8 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of  
9 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

10 (6) **THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ANNE ARUNDEL**  
11 **COUNTY SHALL:**

12 (I) **COLLECT, IN ADVANCE, A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE**  
13 **APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN BRINGING OR DEFENDING A CIVIL ACTION IN**  
14 **THE COURT;**

15 (II) **CHARGE AS COSTS A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE**  
16 **APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN PROSECUTING OR DEFENDING A CRIMINAL**  
17 **ACTION IN THE COURT; AND**

18 (III) **COLLECT, IN ADVANCE, A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE**  
19 **APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN BRINGING OR DEFENDING A CASE IN THE**  
20 **COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS OR COURT OF APPEALS.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 October 1, 2012.