

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1326

(Delegate Norman)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Harford County - Disposition of Fee for Performing Marriage Ceremony - Funds
for Historical Society

This bill increases, from \$10 to \$20, the portion of the \$25 fee collected for performing a marriage ceremony in Harford County that the court clerk must pay to the Historical Society of Harford County.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Judiciary can handle any computer reprogramming costs with existing budgeted resources. No impact on State general fund revenues.

Local Effect: Harford County revenues decrease by \$10,500 in FY 2013 and by \$14,000 in FY 2014 and beyond, assuming the number of marriage ceremonies performed remains constant. These revenues will instead be allocated to the Historical Society of Harford County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: With the exception of Cecil County, the statewide fee for a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk to perform a marriage ceremony is \$25. From the \$25 fee, \$10 is paid into each county's general fund. The remainder of the fee is retained by the clerk. In some counties, a portion of the remaining fee is paid to a historical society, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. In Harford County, from the \$25 fee, \$10 goes to the county's general fund, \$10 is paid to the Historical Society of Harford County, and \$5 is retained by the clerk (and disbursed to the State's general fund).

Exhibit 1
Disposition of Fees from Marriage Ceremonies

<u>County</u>	<u>Remaining Fee Disposition</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Allegany	\$2 quarterly	Allegany County Historical Society
Anne Arundel	4	Annarrundel (Anne Arundel) County Trust for Preservation
Baltimore	15	Baltimore County Historical Trust
Cecil	5	Cecil Historical Trust
	5	Historical Society of Cecil County
Garrett	5	Garrett County Historical Society
Harford	10	Historical Society of Harford County
Montgomery	2	Montgomery County Historical Society
	3	Montgomery County Courthouse and Facilities
Prince George's	3	Prince George's County Heritage

Local Revenues: Under the bill, \$20 will be allocated to the Historical Society of Harford County instead of the \$10 allocated under current law. Because the remaining \$5 of the marriage fee will still be retained by the clerk (and disbursed to the State's general fund), Harford County will no longer receive unrestricted revenue from marriage ceremonies. Based on the number of marriage ceremonies performed in fiscal 2010, Harford County revenues decrease by \$10,500 in fiscal 2013, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2012 effective date. This revenue will instead be allocated to the Historical Society of Harford County. Assuming the number of marriage ceremonies performed remains relatively constant, county revenues decrease by \$14,000 annually; allocations to the historical society increase by a corresponding amount.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2012
mc/kdm

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