

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 181
Judiciary

(Carroll County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

**Courts and Judicial Proceedings - Circuit Court for Carroll County - Fees for
Appearance of Counsel**

This bill alters, from \$10 to \$20, specified fees collected or charged by the Circuit Court for Carroll County for docketing the appearance of counsel.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Carroll County revenues increase by \$21,525 in FY 2015 and by \$28,700 annually beginning in FY 2016, assuming the number of appearances docketed annually remains constant. Expenditures are not directly affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The clerk of the circuit court for each county, other than Montgomery County, is charged with collecting fees for the docketing of the appearance of counsel. Generally, the fee is \$10 when bringing or defending a civil action in court, prosecuting or defending a criminal action, or bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals. The fee varies in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Harford, and St. Mary's counties.

In Carroll County, all appearance fees collected by the clerk are required to be used for the general purposes of the court library, including expenses for books and library equipment.

Local Fiscal Effect: Carroll County indicates that approximately \$28,700 was collected in appearance fees in fiscal 2013. Assuming that the number of cases in which an attorney's appearance is docketed remains constant, Carroll County revenues increase by \$21,525 in fiscal 2015, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2014 effective date, and by \$28,700 annually beginning in fiscal 2015. Revenues are statutorily required to be used for the court library.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 637 of 2013 passed the Senate as amended and received a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: SB 40 (Carroll County Senators) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Carroll County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 2014
ncs/kdm

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