

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1824
Judiciary

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Prince George's County - Marriage License Fees - Distribution of Proceeds
PG 433-18

This bill alters the distribution of specified proceeds from marriage license fees in Prince George's County by repealing a requirement for the proceeds to be distributed to the Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County. Instead, the Prince George's County Director of Finance must distribute the proceeds to battered spouse shelters and domestic violence programs in accordance with the criteria and procedures established by the Prince George's County Department of Social Services.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not affect State finances, as discussed below.

Local Effect: The bill does not affect local finances, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The basic statewide marriage license fee is \$10, of which \$5 is retained by the clerk of the circuit court and \$5 is paid into the general fund of the county where the fee is assessed.

Except as otherwise specified by law, individual or groups of counties are authorized to set additional marriage license fees, the proceeds of which must be used to fund domestic violence programs. In Prince George's County, the county council may set by resolution an additional fee of up to \$60 for each license. According to the Judiciary's *Annual*

Statistical Abstract, Prince George's County issued 5,399 marriage licenses in fiscal 2016 (the most recent information readily available). By December 1 on an annual basis, the County Executive is required to prepare and make available a report on the disposition of the additional fees collected during the previous fiscal year.

State and Local Fiscal Effect: Although the bill alters the distribution of specified proceeds from marriage license fees collected in Prince George's County, it does not alter the portions of the fee kept by the State and Prince George's County. Accordingly, there is no impact on State and local finances. The Prince George's County Department of Social Services can develop criteria and procedures for the distribution of proceeds using existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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