

Chapter 299

**(House Bill 452)**

AN ACT concerning

**Frederick County – Disposition of Marriage Ceremony Fee**

FOR the purpose of requiring the clerk of the circuit court of Frederick County to pay a certain amount of a certain fee to Heritage Frederick; providing for the reporting and auditing of certain financial records; and generally relating to the distribution of the fee for performing a marriage ceremony in Frederick County.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 2–410(a)(1) and (2) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Family Law

Section 2–410(a)(12)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

**Article – Family Law**

2–410.

(a) (1) Except as provided in this subsection, a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk may not receive any fee, remuneration, or gift for performing a marriage ceremony.

(2) (i) 1. A Maryland judge’s fee for performing a marriage ceremony is a nonrefundable fee, payable to the clerk before a marriage license is issued, in the amount of \$30 in Cecil County and \$25 in any other county.

2. The clerk’s or deputy clerk’s fee for performing a marriage ceremony is \$30 in Cecil County and \$25 in any other county.

(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (10) of this subsection, each month the clerk shall pay \$10 of each fee collected under this section into the general fund of the county.

(iii) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the clerk shall

retain the remainder of each fee and deposit and disburse it in the same manner as other fees collected by the clerk.

**(12) (I) IN FREDERICK COUNTY, THE CLERK SHALL PAY THE REMAINING \$15 TO HERITAGE FREDERICK.**

**(II) HERITAGE FREDERICK SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE FREDERICK COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST ON THE USE OF ALL FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

**(III) THE FREDERICK COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAY REQUEST AT ANY TIME AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS OF HERITAGE FREDERICK.**

(b) (1) A clerk or deputy clerk may not violate any provision of this section.

(2) A clerk or deputy clerk who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of neglect of duty and on conviction is subject to removal from office.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2022.**