

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 452

(Delegate Kerr)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

Frederick County - Disposition of Marriage Ceremony Fee

This bill alters the distribution of the fee for performing a marriage ceremony in Frederick County by requiring the clerk of the circuit court to pay \$15 to Heritage Frederick (instead of retaining the amount for the State general fund). Heritage Frederick must report annually to the Frederick County Executive and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) on the use of all funds received under the bill. The Frederick County Executive or MHT may request an audit of the financial records of Heritage Frederick at any time.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues decrease by \$8,700 in FY 2023 and by \$11,600 annually thereafter. Any potential programming costs are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of the Judiciary.

(in dollars)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
GF Revenue	(\$8,700)	(\$11,600)	(\$11,600)	(\$11,600)	(\$11,600)
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$8,700)	(\$11,600)	(\$11,600)	(\$11,600)	(\$11,600)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: The bill does not affect local government finances or operations, as the bill does not alter the portion of the fee that is allocated to Frederick County under statute.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Frederick County, the fee for a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk to perform a marriage ceremony is \$25. Of that amount, \$10 is deposited into the general fund of the county and the remaining \$15 is retained and disbursed in the same manner as other fees collected by the clerk (retained for the State general fund).

State Revenues: Based on information from the Judiciary, approximately \$11,600 annually (using data from fiscal 2019, the last year unaffected by COVID-19 and its impact on court operations) is generated from the portion of the marriage ceremony fee in Frederick County that is currently retained for the State general fund. Under the bill, this money is instead paid to Heritage Frederick. Accordingly, general fund revenues decrease by approximately \$8,700 in fiscal 2023, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2022 effective date, and by \$11,600 annually thereafter.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 649 (Senators Young and Hough) - Judicial Proceedings.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2022
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