

KATHLEEN M. DUMAIS
Legislative District 15
Montgomery County

—
Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee

Chair
Property and Casualty Insurance
Subcommittee

—
House Chair
Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics



The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3052 · 301-858-3052
800-492-7122 Ext. 3052
Fax 410-841-3219 · 301-858-3219
Kathleen.Dumais@house.state.md.us

March 23, 2021

Testimony in Support of House Bill 744 – Courts – Counsel Appearance Fees – Domestic Violence

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of **House Bill 744 – Courts – Counsel Appearance Fees – Domestic Violence**.

This bill stipulates that a fee may not be collected for docketing the appearance of a petitioner's or a respondent's counsel in a domestic violence case. House Bill 744 merely clarifies how counsel appearance fees are already handled in these cases. There have been a few reports of these fees being charged in one or two jurisdictions. This measure would assure that the fees are not collected going forward.

I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 744.