



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

SB 649

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

County Position: FAVORABLE

Date: February 22, 2022
Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE REPORT** for Senate Bill 649 – Frederick County – Disposition of Marriage Ceremony Fee.

Heritage and historical societies research, collect, and preserve our historical documents and artifacts. These organizations have a long tradition of keeping genealogy records, specifically marriage records, and serve as stewards of these important documents. Substantial professional resources, specialized equipment and storage are necessary to ensure proper handling, archiving and cataloging of these valuable documents.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Directs \$15 of the \$25 fee collected in Frederick County for marriages performed by the clerk of the circuit court to Heritage Frederick to support the collection and maintenance of the County's marriage records;
- Enables Frederick County to join nine other counties in the State that direct civil marriage ceremony fees towards this purpose; and
- Ensures accountability regarding the use of these funds with a requirement of annual reporting by Heritage Frederick and the authority to request a financial audit of Heritage Frederick by the County Executive and the Maryland Historical Trust.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE** report for Senate Bill 649.