

HOUSE BILL 161

D2

2lr1500
CF SB 198

By: ~~Delegates George, Barnes, Beidle, Frush, Kipke, and Sophocleus~~ Anne Arundel County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2012

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: April 3, 2012

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts and Judicial Proceedings – Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County –**
3 **Fees for Appearance of Counsel**

4 FOR the purpose of altering certain appearance of counsel fees collected or charged by
5 the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County; ~~authorizing the Clerk~~
6 ~~of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County to collect a certain appearance of~~
7 ~~counsel fee;~~ and generally relating to certain appearance of counsel fees.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
10 Section 7–204(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

16 7–204.

17 (a) (1) Except in Montgomery County and except as provided in
18 paragraph (2) of this subsection for Baltimore County, in paragraph (3) of this
19 subsection for St. Mary's County, in paragraph (4) of this subsection for Baltimore

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 City, [and] in paragraph (5) of this subsection for Harford County, **AND IN**
2 **PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**, the clerk of
3 each circuit court shall:

4 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
5 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

6 (ii) Charge as costs a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
7 counsel when prosecuting or defending a criminal action in the court; and

8 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
9 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

10 (2) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County shall:

11 (i) Collect, in advance, the following fee for docketing the
12 appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a civil action:

13 1. A \$20 fee for an action, including the collection of
14 money due on mortgage, in a court of equity; and

15 2. A \$10 fee for an action at law in a court of original
16 jurisdiction;

17 (ii) Charge as costs the following fee for docketing the
18 appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a criminal action:

19 1. If the punishment for the offense charged is death or
20 confinement in the State penitentiary, a \$20 fee; and

21 2. For any other criminal action, a \$10 fee; and

22 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
23 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

24 (3) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County shall collect,
25 in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of counsel when bringing or
26 defending a civil action in the court.

27 (4) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City shall:

28 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
29 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

30 (ii) Charge as costs the following fee for docketing the
31 appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a criminal action:

1 1. If the punishment for the offense charged is death or
2 confinement in the State penitentiary, a \$20 fee; and

3 2. For any other criminal action, a \$10 fee; and

4 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
5 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

6 (5) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County shall:

7 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
8 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

9 (ii) Charge as costs a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
10 counsel when prosecuting or defending a criminal action in the court; and

11 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
12 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

13 **(6) THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ANNE ARUNDEL**
14 **COUNTY SHALL:**

15 **(I) COLLECT, IN ADVANCE, A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE**
16 **APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN BRINGING OR DEFENDING A CIVIL ACTION IN**
17 **THE COURT;**

18 **(II) CHARGE AS COSTS A ~~\$20~~ \$10 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE**
19 **APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN PROSECUTING OR DEFENDING A CRIMINAL**
20 **ACTION IN THE COURT; AND**

21 **(III) COLLECT, IN ADVANCE, A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE**
22 **APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN BRINGING OR DEFENDING A CASE IN THE**
23 **~~COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS OR~~ COURT OF APPEALS.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2012.