

# HOUSE BILL 972

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CF SB 811

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By: **Delegates Dumais, Barron, Anderson, Atterbeary, Conaway, Moon, Morales, Proctor, Queen, Rosenberg, Sanchez, Sydnor, and B. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Civil Cases – Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund – Surcharges – Repeal**  
3 **of Sunset**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the termination date of certain provisions of law altering  
5 certain surcharges on certain fees, charges, and costs in certain civil cases and  
6 requiring a certain informational budget to be prepared for the Maryland Legal  
7 Services Corporation and submitted to the General Assembly; and generally relating  
8 to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
11 Section 7–202(a)(1), (d), and (g) and 7–301(c)(1), (2), and (5)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – Human Services  
16 Section 11–208  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2007 Volume and 2016 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Chapter 486 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010, as amended by Chapters  
21 71 and 72 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2013  
22 Section 2

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

25 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7-202.

2 (a) (1) (i) The State Court Administrator shall determine the amount of all  
3 court costs and charges for the circuit courts of the counties with the approval of the Board  
4 of Public Works.

5 (ii) The fees and charges shall be uniform throughout the State.

6 (d) The State Court Administrator, as part of the Administrator's determination  
7 of the amount of court costs and charges in civil cases, shall assess a surcharge that:

8 (1) May not be more than \$55 per case; and

9 (2) Shall be deposited into the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund  
10 established under § 11-402 of the Human Services Article.

11 (g) If a party in a proceeding feels aggrieved by any fee permitted under this  
12 subtitle or by §§ 3-601 through 3-603 of the Real Property Article, the party may request  
13 a judge of that circuit court to determine the reasonableness of the fee.

14 7-301.

15 (c) (1) The filing fees and costs in a civil case are those prescribed by law  
16 subject to modification by law, rule, or administrative regulation.

17 (2) The Chief Judge of the District Court shall assess a surcharge that:

18 (i) May not be more than:

19 1. \$8 per summary ejectment case; and

20 2. \$18 per case for all other civil cases; and

21 (ii) Shall be deposited into the Maryland Legal Services Corporation  
22 Fund established under § 11-402 of the Human Services Article.

23 (5) The Court of Appeals may provide by rule for waiver of prepayment of  
24 filing fees and other costs in cases of indigency.

25 **Article – Human Services**

26 11-208.

27 (a) The executive director shall prepare an annual budget for the Corporation.

1 (b) (1) For informational purposes only, the Corporation shall submit its  
2 budget to the General Assembly in conjunction with the budget request of the Judicial  
3 Branch of the State government on November 1 of each year.

4 (2) The informational budget required under this subsection shall include  
5 3 years of data, including the most recently completed fiscal year, an estimate for the  
6 current fiscal year, and an estimate for the next fiscal year, including:

7 (i) a summary of total expenditures and the sources of revenue that  
8 support that spending;

9 (ii) line item expenditure detail for personnel, operating expenses,  
10 and grants, including individual grantees;

11 (iii) narrative explanation of all revenue and spending changes  
12 between the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year;

13 (iv) performance measurement data that details the use of funds; and

14 (v) detail on the Corporation's reserve fund, including actual and  
15 estimated end of fiscal year balances, transfers to and from the reserve fund, and the  
16 policies governing the reserve fund.

17 **Chapter 486 of the Acts of 2010, as amended by Chapters 71 and 72 of the Acts of**  
18 **2013**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
20 1, 2010. [It shall remain effective for a period of 8 years and, at the end of June 30, 2018,  
21 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and  
22 of no further force and effect.]

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2017.