

Chapter 146

**(Senate Bill 60)**

AN ACT concerning

**Clerks of the Circuit Courts – Collection of Appearance Fees**

FOR the purpose of clarifying that if more than one stockholder, partner, member, or employee of a certain entity engaged in practicing law enters an appearance in an action or a case, the clerk of the circuit court may collect only one appearance fee per entity; clarifying that, if more than one employee of a certain governmental entity enters an appearance in an action or a case, the clerk of the circuit court may collect only one appearance fee per governmental entity; and generally relating to the collection of appearance fees.

BY renumbering

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 7–204(b) through (w), respectively to be Section 7–204(c) through (x), respectively

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 7–204(a)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 7–204(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–204(b) through 7–204(w), respectively, of Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–204(c) through 7–204(x), respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

7–204.

(a) (1) Except in Montgomery County and except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection for Baltimore County, in paragraph (3) of this subsection for St. Mary's County, in paragraph (4) of this subsection for Baltimore City, in paragraph (5) of this subsection for Harford County, and in paragraph (6) of this subsection for Carroll County, the clerk of each circuit court shall:

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

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

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

**(B) (1) IF MORE THAN ONE STOCKHOLDER, PARTNER, MEMBER, OR EMPLOYEE OF A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OR OTHER ENTITY ENGAGED IN PRACTICING LAW ENTERS AN APPEARANCE IN AN ACTION OR A CASE, THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT MAY COLLECT ONLY ONE APPEARANCE FEE PER ENTITY.**

**(2) IF MORE THAN ONE EMPLOYEE OF A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY THAT HAS CONSENTED TO THE ASSESSMENT OF FEES UNDER § 7-202(B) OF THIS ARTICLE ENTERS AN APPEARANCE IN AN ACTION OR A CASE, THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT MAY ASSESS ONLY ONE APPEARANCE FEE PER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.**

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**