

HOUSE BILL 48

D1

5l0533
CF 5l1271

By: **Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Maryland Judicial Conference)**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
12 Section 7–204(b) through (w), respectively to be Section 7–204(c) through (x),
13 respectively
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
18 Section 7–204(a)(1)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

21 BY adding to

22 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
23 Section 7–204(b)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
27 That Section(s) 7–204(b) through 7–204(w), respectively, of Article – Courts and Judicial

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Proceedings of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–204(c)
2 through 7–204(x), respectively.

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

5 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

6 7–204.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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