

# HOUSE BILL 446

D4

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By: **Delegate Forbes**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore County – Disposition of Marriage Ceremony Fee**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the distribution of the fee for performing a marriage ceremony  
4 in Baltimore County to require the clerk of the circuit court to pay the entire amount  
5 to the Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc.; and generally relating to the  
6 distribution of marriage ceremony fees in Baltimore County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Family Law  
9 Section 2–410(a)(1) and (b)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Family Law  
14 Section 2–410(a)(2) and (5)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Family Law**

20 2–410.

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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 (a) (1) Except as provided in this subsection, a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk  
2 may not receive any fee, remuneration, or gift for performing a marriage ceremony.

3 (2) (i) 1. A Maryland judge's fee for performing a marriage  
4 ceremony is a nonrefundable fee, payable to the clerk before a marriage license is issued,  
5 in the amount of \$30 in Cecil County and \$25 in any other county.

6 2. The clerk's or deputy clerk's fee for performing a marriage  
7 ceremony is \$30 in Cecil County and \$25 in any other county.

8 (ii) Except as provided in [paragraph] PARAGRAPHS (5) AND (10)  
9 of this subsection, each month the clerk shall pay \$10 of each fee collected under this section  
10 into the general fund of the county.

11 (iii) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the clerk shall  
12 retain the remainder of each fee and deposit and disburse it in the same manner as other  
13 fees collected by the clerk.

14 (5) (i) In Baltimore County, the clerk shall pay the [remaining \$15]  
15 ENTIRE \$25 FEE to the Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc.

16 (ii) The Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc. shall report  
17 annually to the Baltimore County Executive and the Maryland Historical Trust on the use  
18 of all funds received under this section, including a detailed record of the expenditures and  
19 receipts of all funds collected before July 1, 1987.

20 (iii) The Baltimore County Executive or the Maryland Historical  
21 Trust may request at any time an audit of the financial records of the Baltimore County  
22 Historical Trust, Inc.

23 (b) (1) A clerk or deputy clerk may not violate any provision of this section.

24 (2) A clerk or deputy clerk who violates the provisions of this section is  
25 guilty of neglect of duty and on conviction is subject to removal from office.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2022.