

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 446
Judiciary

(Delegate Forbes)

Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore County - Disposition of Marriage Ceremony Fee

This bill alters the distribution of the fee for performing a marriage ceremony in Baltimore County by requiring the clerk of the circuit court to pay the entire amount (\$25) to the Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any potential programming costs are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within the existing budgeted resources of the Judiciary. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Baltimore County revenues decrease by \$18,000 in FY 2023 and by \$24,000 annually thereafter. Baltimore County expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In Baltimore County, the fee for a judge, clerk, or deputy clerk to perform a marriage ceremony is \$25. Of that amount, \$10 is deposited into the general fund of the county and the remaining \$15 is paid to the Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc. The Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc. must report annually to the county executive and the Maryland Historical Trust on the use of all funds received from marriage ceremony fees, as specified. The county executive or the Maryland Historical Trust may request an audit at any time of the financial records of the Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc.

Local Revenues: Based on information from the Judiciary and Baltimore County, approximately \$24,000 annually (using data from fiscal years unaffected by COVID-19 and its impact on court operations) is generated from the portion of the marriage ceremony fee that is currently deposited in the county's general fund. Under the bill, this money is instead paid to the Baltimore County Historical Trust, Inc. Accordingly, county revenues decrease by approximately \$18,000 in fiscal 2023, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2022 effective date, and by \$24,000 annually thereafter.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of Planning; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 7, 2022
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