

CHAPTER 406

(House Bill 365)

AN ACT to add new Section 3A to Article 62 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Marriages," to follow immediately after Section 3 thereof, and to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 4 of the said Article of the Code, to provide that clerks of courts, deputy clerks, and other designated clerks may conduct marriage ceremonies in the State, relating to the fees for and conduct of such ceremonies, prohibiting other fees or remuneration and providing for the effect of violations.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 3A be and it is hereby added to Article 62 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Marriages," to follow immediately after Section 3 thereof, and Section 4 of the said Article of the Code be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and all to read as follows:

3A.

(a) *The following persons are authorized to solemnize marriages in this State: any minister of the Gospel or official of a religious order or body authorized by the rules and customs of said order or body to join persons in marriage; and any Clerk of the Circuit Court for any county or such deputy clerks as the Chief Judge of the Judicial Circuit* RESIDENT JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY, OR THE SENIOR JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT RESIDENT IN THE COUNTY, AS THE CASE MAY BE, may designate, and any of the Clerks of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City or such deputy or other clerks of the Supreme Bench as the Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench may designate.

(b) *The Chief Judges of the Judicial Circuits* RESIDENT JUDGE, OR SENIOR JUDGE, AS PROVIDED ABOVE and the Chief Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City shall designate the times during which and the places where the clerks of the Judicial Circuits or of the Supreme Bench, or such deputies or other clerks as may be designated, may perform marriage ceremonies. THE RESIDENT JUDGE OR SENIOR JUDGE, AND THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE SUPREME BENCH SHALL ALSO DESIGNATE THE FORM OF MARRIAGE CEREMONY WHICH SHALL BE RECITED BY THE CLERKS AND THE PARTIES TO THE MARRIAGE.

(c) *The clerks, deputies or other clerks shall receive for performing a marriage ceremony a fee equivalent to the sum charged for the issuance of a marriage license. All fees shall be deposited and disbursed in the same manner as other fees collected by the office or clerks of courts* OF TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00), OF WHICH TWO DOLLARS (\$2.00) SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE CLERKS AND DEPOSITED AND DISBURSED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER FEES COLLECTED BY THE CLERKS, AND THE REMAINING EIGHT DOLLARS (\$8.00) OF THE FEE SHALL BE PAID BY THE CLERKS MONTHLY INTO THE GENERAL FUNDS OF THE COUNTY OR CITY OF BALTIMORE. No clerk,