

CHAPTER 619.

AN ACT to add an additional section to Article 21 of Bagby's Code of Public Civil Laws of Maryland, title "Conveyancing," to be known as Section 97, relating to the payment of the cost of United States Internal Revenue Stamps required on deeds and other conveyances, except mortgages.

WHEREAS, It is the long established custom in Maryland (in the absence of a special agreement to the contrary) that in conveyances of real or leasehold estate (except in mortgage transactions) the purchaser should pay the expenses of the examination of title, drawing legal papers, acknowledgments and recording, etc.; and whereas under the United States War Revenue Act of 1898, it was likewise the custom that the cost of the revenue stamps required by said statute should be paid by the purchaser; and whereas there is an uncertainty under the United States Emergency Revenue Act of 1914 as to whether or not the cost of the revenue stamps required in real estate transactions should be paid by the vendor or by the purchaser, and the proper officials of the United States have thus far declined to decide the question as to whether the vendor or purchaser should pay for such stamps; and whereas it is desirable that a uniform practice should be established by law in Maryland in regard to this matter until such time as the liability for the cost of such stamps is established by the authority of the United States, and in view of the uncertainty as to whether the grantor or grantee is liable for the cost of such stamps, it is proper that the cost thereof should be equally shared between the parties, in the absence of any agreement between them to the contrary.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a new section be and hereby is added to Article 21 of Bagby's Code of Public Civil Laws of Maryland, title "Conveyancing," to be known as Section 97.

97. In every agreement, written or verbal, for the sale or other disposition of real or leasehold property, it shall be presumed (in the absence of a provision to the contrary) that the parties to such agreement intended that the cost of any internal revenue stamps required under any tax law of the United States of America should be equally shared between the grantor and grantee. This section shall only apply until such time as the proper officers of the United States of America shall determine whether the grantor or the grantee is liable for the cost of such