

## CHAPTER 610.

(Senate Bill 528)

AN ACT to add a new Section to Article 17 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Clerks of Courts", sub-title "General Duties of Clerks", said new Section to be known as Section 53A, to follow immediately after Section 53 of said Article, providing for the payment to the State Treasury of unclaimed funds in the hands of clerks of court.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new Section be and it hereby is added to Article 17 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), title "Clerks of Court", sub-title "General Duties of Clerks", said new Section to be known as Section 53A, to follow immediately after Section 53 of said Article and to read as follows:

53A. Whenever any clerk of any court of record of this State has in hand in his official capacity any funds subject to order of the court or received by him in connection with any court proceeding, and where such funds have remained unclaimed for seven years, or the Clerk, after a lapse of seven years, has been unable to locate the person or persons entitled thereto, or his or their legal representative or representatives, the Court may, on petition of the Clerk, authorize the Clerk to disburse said funds as hereinbelow provided. Before entering such an order, the Court shall be satisfied that reasonable efforts under the circumstances have been made to locate the person or persons entitled to such funds, or his or their legal representative or representatives, by oral and written inquiry and by advertisement inserted in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baltimore or in the county where the Court is located at least once a week for four consecutive weeks, unless in the opinion of the court the amount of funds involved do not justify the cost of such advertisement. In the event such efforts are unsuccessful the Court may enter an order authorizing the Clerk to pay over such funds to the State Treasurer for the use of the State, after the allowance of the Clerk's proper costs including the cost of such advertisement if any.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1941.

Approved May 2, 1941.