

WHEREAS, The several Registers of Wills in this State collect in their offices fees from which they deduct the expenses of their offices, after which they remit the balance to the State Treasury; and

WHEREAS, Any change in the salaries of these officials therefor becomes a matter having to do with budgetary, revenue and finance matters of the State government which may properly be considered at a thirty day session of the General Assembly in even years; now therefore

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 298 (a) of Article 93 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1951 Edition), title "Testamentary Law", sub-title "Register of Wills", as said section was amended by Chapter 435 of the Acts of 1953, be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

298. (a) The Register of Wills of Baltimore City *and* SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ANNUALLY A SALARY OF NOT LESS THAN \$3600.00, AND NOT MORE THAN \$9000.00, AND THE REGISTERS OF WILLS of Frederick, Washington, and Montgomery Counties shall be entitled to receive annually a salary of not less than \$3,600 and not more than ~~[\$7,500]~~ ~~\$9,000~~, to be fixed and determined by the Board of Public Works and the Register shall be entitled to the salary so fixed and no more.

The Board of Public Works in fixing the annual salary of the Register of Wills of Baltimore City and of Frederick and Washington Counties shall be guided in the exercise of its discretion in regard thereto, by the population of said City, or County, determined by the last official United States Census, by the current representation of said City or County in the House of Delegates of Maryland, by the dollar volume of total fees and taxes collected and of excess fees turned over to the State for each of the preceding five (5) years by the office of the Register of Wills for which the salary is being fixed and by other pertinent data which has relation to the reasonableness of the salary in relation to the work done and volume handled by the office, it being the intent of this section that the said Register shall receive a fair and adequate compensation for the effort and duties required of him by his office and the volume and character of work done by him as Register in proportion to the salary fixed by the Legislature for other Registers of Wills in this State.