

that I sign this legislation because of the fiscal hardship on political subdivisions arising from payment of criminal court costs. Clearly my Administration and this General Assembly have accepted and fulfilled the difficult task of increasing State support to local governments at a time when federal reductions in responsibility and financial assistance have created a fiscal burden for both State and local governments. The figures in this area are uncontrovertible. During Fiscal Year 1984, direct assistance to subdivisions will amount to \$1.2 billion; payments in behalf of local governments equal \$520 million; and State costs for functions previously funded by local governments exceed \$219 million. Together, over \$1.7 billion will flow to local governments from the State during the course of this fiscal year. Ameliorating the fiscal condition of counties should not come at the expense of undermining the ability of the Clerks to provide quality services to the public.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1421.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

House Bill No. 1421

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Proceedings - Court Costs

FOR the purpose of eliminating the requirement that the counties and Baltimore City pay fees and court costs in certain criminal proceedings; providing that defendants found not guilty are not required to pay court costs or fees in certain criminal proceedings; ~~requiring the State to release liability for payment of certain criminal court costs; requiring the State to reimburse certain costs attributable to criminal court proceedings;~~ and generally relating to payment of costs and fees in criminal proceedings.

BY repealing

Article 38 - Fines and Forfeitures
Section 4A
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1982 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

BY adding to