

## **Chapter 325**

**(Senate Bill 846)**

AN ACT concerning

### **Courts – Baltimore City Sheriff and Fees for Filing and Service of Process**

FOR the purpose of altering the type of positions and the number of certain positions to which the Baltimore City Sheriff may appoint employees; increasing a certain annual expense allowance for certain deputy sheriffs; altering certain surcharges on filing fees in the District Court in Baltimore City; requiring certain revenue to be remitted quarterly to the Baltimore City Director of Finance and used to fund the enhancement of sheriff benefits and the increase in sheriff personnel for a certain purpose; authorizing the Sheriff to collect certain surcharges on fees for certain types of service; requiring certain revenue to be used to fund the enhancement of sheriff benefits and the increase in sheriff personnel for a certain purpose; and generally relating to the Baltimore City Sheriff and certain filing and service of process fees in Baltimore City.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 2–309(a) and (a–1) and 7–402(b) and (e)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 2–309(d)(1), 7–301(c), and 7–402(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

BY adding to  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 7–402(f)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

2–309.

(a) The sheriff of a county and his deputies shall receive the annual salaries provided by this section for performing the duties required of them by the Constitution and the laws of this State. They shall be reimbursed for expenses as provided by law.

(a-1) The government of each county shall furnish an office for the sheriff and pay the necessary expenses for telephones, stationery and for other purposes, and unless otherwise provided by law, shall provide for the necessary traveling expenses of the sheriff for conveying prisoners to any penal institution in the State and other necessary traveling expenses.

(d) (1) (i) In Baltimore City, the Sheriff shall receive an expense allowance of \$750 two times per year and a salary of:

1. \$79,300 in calendar year 2007;
2. \$84,600 in calendar year 2008;
3. \$89,900 in calendar year 2009;
4. \$95,200 in calendar year 2010; and
5. In calendar year 2011 and thereafter, no less than the salary of a Command Staff 2 in the Baltimore City Police Department at the midpoint in the pay scale.

(ii) The Sheriff:

1. Shall appoint an undersheriff or chief deputy sheriff, one assistant sheriff, [two] **THREE** deputy sheriff majors, [two] **THREE** deputy sheriff captains, [four] **SIX** deputy sheriff lieutenants, one secretary sheriff, and one fiscal clerk sheriff; and
2. May appoint up to a maximum of:
  - A. [7] **9** deputy sheriff sergeants; [and]
  - B. [90] **103** deputy sheriffs;
  - C. **2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLERKS; AND**
  - D. **2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATES.**

(iii) 1. Except for deputy sheriffs, deputy sheriff sergeants, and deputy sheriff lieutenants, salaries for these employees shall be set by the Secretary of Budget and Management.

2. Salaries for deputy sheriffs shall be set at a rate not less than the salary equivalent to grade 14 of the State pay scale.

3. Salaries for deputy sheriff sergeants shall be set at a rate not less than the salary equivalent to grade 16 of the State pay scale.

4. Salaries for deputy sheriff lieutenants shall be set at a rate not less than the salary equivalent to grade 18 of the State pay scale.

~~5. EMPLOYEES IN A DEPUTY SHERIFF CLASSIFICATION SHALL RECEIVE STEP INCREASES FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.~~

(iv) In addition to any other compensation received, each deputy sheriff shall receive an expense allowance of ~~[\$200] \$500~~ \$400 annually for:

1. Ammunition for practice sessions at the range;
2. Clothing allowance to defray the cost of dry cleaning and maintaining the clothing worn while on duty; and
3. The purchase and maintenance of other items necessary to fulfill duties that currently are not furnished by the Baltimore City Sheriff's Department.

(v) A deputy sheriff who uses a personal automobile is entitled to a monthly automobile allowance at the same rate paid to other State employees. Any Sheriff who is assigned a city-owned automobile may not receive the monthly automobile expense allowance.

(vi) The Sheriff's Office shall also have assistants at the compensation provided for in the annual ordinance of estimates of Baltimore City. Provisions shall also be made in the ordinance for the expenses of the Office of the Sheriff, including the purchase and maintenance of motor vehicles.

(vii) The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore have the same power with respect to the salaries of the Office of the Sheriff as they have under the city charter with respect to the salaries of all municipal departments.

(viii) Employees of the Sheriff's Office, except the Sheriff, shall be selected according to the provisions of the State Personnel and Pensions Article.

7-301.

(c) (1) The filing fees and costs in a civil case are those prescribed by law subject to modification by law, rule, or administrative regulation.

(2) The Chief Judge of the District Court shall assess a surcharge that:

(i) May not be more than:

1. \$8 per summary ejectment case; and
2. \$18 per case for all other civil cases; and

(ii) Shall be deposited into the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund established under § 11-402 of the Human Services Article.

**(3) (I) IN ADDITION TO THE SURCHARGE ASSESSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL ASSESS A SURCHARGE THAT MAY NOT BE MORE THAN \$10 PER CASE FOR THE FOLLOWING CASES FILED IN BALTIMORE CITY:**

- 1. SUMMARY EJECTMENT;**
- 2. TENANT HOLDING OVER;**
- 3. BREACH OF LEASE; AND**
- 4. WARRANT OF RESTITUTION.**

**(II) THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE SURCHARGE ON FILING FEES COLLECTED BY THE DISTRICT COURT IN BALTIMORE CITY UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE:**

- 1. REMITTED QUARTERLY TO THE BALTIMORE CITY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE; AND**
- 2. USED TO FUND THE ENHANCEMENT OF SHERIFF BENEFITS AND THE INCREASE IN SHERIFF PERSONNEL TO ENHANCE THE SERVICE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS.**

(4) The Court of Appeals may provide by rule for waiver of prepayment of filing fees and other costs in cases of indigency.

7-402.

(a) Except as provided in subsections (b), [and] (e), AND (F) of this section, a sheriff shall collect the following fees:

- (1) \$5 for service of summary ejectment papers.

(2) \$40 for service of a paper not including an execution or attachment.

(3) \$40 for service including an execution or attachment by taking into custody a person or seizing real or personal property.

(4) \$40 for service of process papers arising out of administrative agency proceedings where the party requesting the service is a nongovernmental entity.

(5) For the sale following the execution or attachment of personal property: Three percent of the first \$5,000; two percent of the second \$5,000; and one percent of any amount in excess of \$10,000. The sheriff shall collect a minimum of \$15 and a maximum of \$500 under the provisions of this paragraph.

(6) For the sale following the execution or attachment of real property: One and one-half percent of the first \$5,000; one percent of the second \$5,000; and one-half of one percent of any amount in excess of \$10,000. The sheriff shall collect a minimum of \$1.50 and a maximum of \$250 under the provisions of this paragraph.

(7) \$60 for service of a paper originating from a foreign court.

(b) (1) For service including an execution or attachment by taking into custody a person or seizing real or personal property, a sheriff may collect the amount specified in a cooperative agreement with the Child Support Enforcement Administration under § 10–111 of the Family Law Article.

(2) As part of the costs awarded to a party under § 12–103 of the Family Law Article, a court may not award an amount greater than the amount specified in subsection (a) of this section for the cost of service including an execution or attachment by taking into custody a person or seizing real or personal property.

(e) A sheriff may not collect a fee for the service of:

(1) A paper from a housing authority created under Division II of the Housing and Community Development Article; or

(2) A summons for a law enforcement officer to appear as a witness in a criminal case.

**(F) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE FEES SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (E) OF THIS SECTION, THE BALTIMORE CITY SHERIFF SHALL COLLECT A SURCHARGE THAT MAY NOT BE MORE THAN:**

**(I) \$60 FOR SERVICE OF A WRIT OF EXECUTION; AND**

**(II) \$40 FOR SERVICE OF A PAPER ORIGINATING FROM A FOREIGN COURT.**

**(2) THE REVENUE GENERATED FROM THE SURCHARGE ON FILING FEES FOR THE SHERIFF SERVICES UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL FUND THE ENHANCEMENT OF SHERIFF BENEFITS AND THE INCREASE IN SHERIFF PERSONNEL TO ENHANCE THE SERVICE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

**Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.**