



HOUSE BILL 470: Administration of Justice Changes.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	October 9, 2019
Introduced by:	Rep. Stevens	Prepared by:	Cindy Avrette
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 470 would make changes and technical corrections requested by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Conference of Superior Court Clerks; clarify the scope of Judicial Standards Commission investigations, and clarify the service to the State that may be considered good cause for court continuances.*

Sections 4, 11, and 12 contain the finance-related provisions. The fee changes come recommended by the Conference of Superior Court Clerks and are the same changes enacted by the General Assembly in the budget bill, House Bill 966, on June 27th, and passed by the Senate in House Bill 226 on August 13th.

BILL ANALYSIS AND EFFECTIVE DATES: For a summary of all the provisions in House Bill 470, please see the bill analysis prepared by Jennifer Bedford, distributed in the Senate Judiciary Committee on October 8, 2019, and available on the legislative website under *view available bill summaries*: [HB 470](#)

Section 4 provides that there is no filing fee when an attorney designates a period of secure leave. This section become effective when the act becomes law.

Section 11 makes the following fee-related changes, effective January 1, 2020, and applicable to petitions filed on or after that date:

- Creates a fee of \$20 for filing certain estate administration applications.
- Increases the fee from \$8 to \$20 for a surviving spouse or child to petition for the year's allowance.
- Increases the fee for performing a marriage ceremony from \$20 to \$50.
- Increases the fee for taking a deposition from \$8 to \$20.

Section 12 creates a \$300 fee payable to the Clerk of Court for *in rem* foreclosures if the property is sold under execution. This change becomes effective December 1, 2019, and applies to executive sales conducted on or after that date.

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