

37:1-12.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Marriage licenses-fees)

NJSA: 37:1-12
LAWS OF: 1992 CHAPTER: 136
BILL NO: S522
SPONSOR(S) Cafiero and Lipman
DATE INTRODUCED: March 9, 1992
COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Judiciary
SENATE: Women's Issues
AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No
DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: October 8, 1992
SENATE: May 7, 1992
DATE OF APPROVAL: November 13, 1992

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes
SENATE: Yes
FISCAL NOTE: Yes
VETO MESSAGE: No
MESSAGE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No
HEARINGS: No

See newspaper clipping--attached:

"Marriage fee hike to help abused," 11-14-92 Star Ledger
KBG:pp

P.L.1992, CHAPTER 136, approved November 13, 1992

1992 Senate No. 522

1 AN ACT increasing the fee charged for a marriage license and
2 amending R.S.37:1-12 and P.L.1981, c.382.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
5 State of New Jersey:

6 1. Section 1 of P.L.1981, c.382 (C.37:1-12.1) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 1. In addition to the fee for issuing a marriage license
9 authorized pursuant to R.S.37:1-12, each licensing officer shall
10 collect a fee of ~~[\$5.00]~~ **\$25** from the applicants which shall be
11 forwarded on a quarterly basis to the Department of Human
12 Services.

13 (cf: P.L.1981, c.382, s.1)

14 2. Section 2 of P.L.1981, c.382 (C.37:1-12.2) is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 2. The Department of Human Services shall establish a trust
17 fund for the deposit of the fees received pursuant to section 1 of
18 this act. The moneys from the trust fund shall be used for the
19 specific purpose of establishing and maintaining shelters for the
20 victims of domestic violence, or a. for providing grants-in-aid to
21 such shelters established by local governments or private
22 nonprofit organizations; or b. for providing grants-in-aid to
23 non-residential agencies whose primary purpose is to serve
24 victims of domestic violence in those counties which do not have
25 emergency residential shelters for victims; or c. for providing
26 grants-in-aid to any non-profit, State-wide coalition whose
27 membership includes a majority of the programs for battered
28 women in New Jersey and whose board membership includes a
29 majority of representatives of these programs and whose purpose
30 is to provide services, community education, and technical
31 assistance to these programs to establish and maintain shelter
32 and related services for victims of domestic violence and their
33 children.

34 (cf: P.L.1981, c.382, s.2)

35 3. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

STATEMENT

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40 This bill amends section 1 of P.L.1981, c.382 (C.37:1-12.1) to
41 increase the additional fee collected with a marriage license
42 from \$5.00 to \$25. The base fee is retained by the issuing
43 municipality and the additional fee is forwarded to the
44 Department of Human Services and deposited in a trust fund used
45 for establishing and maintaining shelters for the victims of
46 domestic violence. The bill would also amend section 2 of
47 P.L.1981, c.382 (C.37:1-12.2) to expand the use of these trust
48 fund monies to include grants to non-residential agencies which

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 provide services to victims of domestic violence in counties
2 which do not have emergency shelters. Additionally, non-profit
3 coalitions such as the N.J. Coalition for Battered Women, Inc.
4 which are involved in providing services to victims of domestic
5 violence would also be eligible for grants under this bill.

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10 Increases the license fee and additional fee charged for marriage
11 licenses; provides for certain organizations to be eligible for
12 grants from trust fund in which fees deposited.

SENATE, No. 522

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 1992

By Senators CAFIERO and LIPMAN

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23 non-residential agencies whose primary purpose is to serve
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25 emergency residential shelters for victims; or c. for providing
26 grants-in-aid to any non-profit, State-wide coalition whose
27 membership includes a majority of the programs for battered
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29 majority of representatives of these programs and whose purpose
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2 Department of Human Services and deposited in a trust fund used
3 for establishing and maintaining shelters for the victims of
4 domestic violence. The bill would also amend section 2 of
5 P.L.1981, c.382 (C.37:1-12.2) to expand the use of these trust
6 fund monies to include grants to non-residential agencies which
7 provide services to victims of domestic violence in counties
8 which do not have emergency shelters. Additionally, non-profit
9 coalitions such as the N.J. Coalition for Battered Women, Inc.
10 which are involved in providing services to victims of domestic
11 violence would also be eligible for grants under this bill.

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18 grants from trust fund in which fees deposited.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 522

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 22, 1992

The Assembly Judiciary, Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 522.

Presently, in addition to the \$3.00 fee for issuance of a marriage license, an additional fee of \$5.00 is collected. These fees are forwarded to the Department of Human Services and deposited in a trust used for establishing and maintaining shelters for the victims of domestic violence. The bill would increase this additional fee from \$5.00 to \$25.00 and expand the use of these trust fund monies to include grants to non-residential agencies which provide services to victims of domestic violence in counties which do not have emergency shelters. Additionally, non-profit coalitions such as the N.J. Coalition for Battered Women, Inc. which are involved in providing services to victims of domestic violence would also be eligible for grants under this bill.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1080.

SENATE WOMEN'S ISSUES, CHILDREN
AND FAMILY SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 522

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 30, 1992

The Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 522.

The bill amends section 1 of P.L.1981, c.382 (C.37:1-12.1) to increase the additional fee collected with a marriage license from \$5.00 to \$25. The base fee is retained by the issuing municipality and the additional fee is forwarded to the Department of Human Services and deposited in a trust fund used for establishing and maintaining shelters for the victims of domestic violence.

The bill would also amend section 2 of P.L.1981, c.382 (C.37:1-12.2) to expand the use of these trust fund monies to include grants to non-residential agencies which provide services to victims of domestic violence in counties which do not have emergency shelters. Additionally, nonprofit coalitions such as the N.J. Coalition for Battered Women, Inc., which are involved in providing services to victims of domestic violence, would also be eligible for grants under this bill.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

SENATE, No. 522

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: July 6, 1992

Senate Bill No. 522 [1R] of 1992 increases the additional fee charged for the issuance of a marriage license from \$5.00 to \$25.00. The additional fee would be forwarded to the Department of Human Services and deposited in a trust fund used for establishing and maintaining shelters for the victims of domestic violence. The bill also expands the use of these trust fund monies to include grants to non-residential agencies which provide services to victims of domestic violence in counties which do not have emergency shelters, and would provide funding to nonprofit coalitions providing domestic violence services.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have not provided any fiscal information on this bill.

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the increase in the marriage license fee from \$5.00 to \$25.00 will generate approximately \$1,200,000 in revenues annually, based on approximately 60,100 marriage licenses issued in 1989, the last year for which published data are available.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

CN-001
Contact:

Jon Shure
Jo Glading
609/777-2600

TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: Friday
Nov. 13, 1992

GOVERNOR SIGNS LAW BOOSTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRUST FUND **Expands Services for Victims and Families**

WOODBURY -- Governor Jim Florio today signed a law to expand the state's domestic violence trust fund which helps support programs and shelters for abused victims.

"Domestic violence is a shameful crime. We will not tolerate it and we will punish the guilty. But we must keep the healing process strong, to offer understanding, support and shelter to the women who suffer from this violence," Governor Florio said.

"In New Jersey, we don't tolerate violence between strangers: we won't tolerate it between family members. The bill we sign today advances our cause for the protection of women, children and families. This bill provides vitally needed funding for our trust fund that helps keep existing shelters open for the victims of domestic violence. It also helps us reach more women and victims than we have before, by extending services to counties that lack emergency shelters," said the Governor, as he signed the bill at the Gloucester County Court House.

The law, S 522/A 1080, increases to \$25 from \$5 a fee that is assessed along with the \$3 marriage license fee. The proceeds are forwarded to the state Department of Human Services for a trust fund for the establishment and maintenance of shelters for victims of domestic violence. Under the current law, the fee is collected in addition to the \$3 marriage license fee, which will continue to be retained by the issuing municipality. The bill was sponsored by Senators James Cafiero and Wynona Lipman, and Assemblypersons Leonard Lance and Jack Collins.

The bill also amends existing law to expand the use of the trust fund to include grants-in-aid to non-residential agencies which provide services to victims

of domestic violence in counties which do not have emergency shelters. In addition, non-profit coalitions, such as the N.J. Coalition for Battered Women, which are involved in providing services to domestic violence victims, would also be eligible for grants.

"Lately, America's television screens have brought our crisis in domestic violence from behind closed doors and into the public eye. In New Jersey, we already knew this crisis was very real. We've heard the cries for help and we've seen the shattered dreams. We knew government cannot and should not keep this crime in the shadows," said Governor Florio. "Working with a dedicated coalition of advocates for domestic violence, we've done more than respond to the headlines. We've put in place a partnership to cope with all aspects of the domestic violence crisis."

"The wounds of this crime are deeper than the scars and bruises of its victims. Violence against women breaks up families, destroys self-esteem and responsibility, and crushes the dreams and hopes of children," he said.

The new law is one more step Governor Florio has taken in boosting the state's efforts to prevent domestic violence. In June, he signed an Executive Order creating an Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women to boost the state's efforts towards preventing violence. The office, which is located within the state's Division on Women, will focus on preventive measures incorporating three components of violence against women -- domestic violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault -- as a whole. The office is concentrating its efforts on prevention-oriented activities such as training programs for professionals (medical, clergy, educators, etc.), public education initiatives and special projects such as outreach to school-age children.

In August, 1991, Governor Florio signed into law the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, possibly the most progressive domestic violence law in the country, which will maintain New Jersey's decade-long position in the forefront of domestic violence public policy. The law broadens the definition of a victim, widens the scope of offenses which constitute domestic violence, requires more training for police and court officials, and clarifies conditions for an arrest.

"The long term solution to addressing the problem of violence against women must include preventive efforts, involving education, training of professionals and counseling for the offenders and victims," the Governor said. "But in the short-term, the best hope for the protection of these victims is the law and our commitment to enforce it."

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