

No. 1998-164

AN ACT

HB 1715

Amending the act of November 26, 1982 (P.L.744, No.203), entitled "An act to ascertain and appoint the fees to be received by the prothonotary of the court of common pleas of the Commonwealth in home rule counties or counties of the second class A and the third to eighth class; to provide the time of paying the same and to repeal certain acts," providing for the establishment and modification of fees and for the imposition of an additional fee.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of November 26, 1982 (P.L.744, No.203), referred to as the Prothonotary Fee Law, is amended by adding sections to read:

Section 1.1. Increasing existing fees.

(a) General rule.—In counties of the second class A and the third through eighth class, including home rule counties of the same class, the prothonotary may increase any fee or charge that exists as of the effective date of this section with the approval of the president judge. The amount of any increase may not be greater than the aggregate of the consumer price index from the month in which the fee was last established through June 1998.

(b) Periodic adjustment.—The amount of any fee or charge increased pursuant to subsection (a) may be increased every three years, provided that the amount of the increase may not be greater than the percentage of increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Workers for the immediate three years preceding the last increase in the fee or charge.

Section 1.2. Automation fee for prothonotary's office.

In addition to any other fee authorized by law, an automation fee of not more than \$5 may be charged and collected by the prothonotary of counties of the second class A and the third through eighth class, including home rule counties of the same class, for the initiation of any action or legal proceeding. The automation fee shall be deposited into a special prothonotary automation fund established in each county. Moneys in the special fund shall be used solely for the purpose of automation and continued automation update of the office of the prothonotary.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 30 days.

APPROVED—The 21st day of December, A.D. 1998.

THOMAS J. RIDGE