

Marriage Fee – House Judiciary Committee
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March 3, 2023

I am here today to talk about one of the special funds that the Center administers – the Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund (DV/SV Fund)

For FY 2024, we project a deficit in the DV/SV Fund of approximately \$350,000. We have been working with the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to try to figure out solutions to this deficit. In part, the Fund receives revenues from marriage license fees.

Last year, the Joint Fiscal Office prepared a report for the Legislature with some recommendations related to funding of victim services in Vermont. One of the options put forth by the JFO to address declining special fund revenues is to re-allocate to the DV/SV fund the portion of the revenues that currently goes to the General Fund

“Dedicate entirety of the State-share for marriage license fees to crime victim special funds Civil marriage licenses incur a \$60.00 fee, some of which is retained by the town of issuance (\$10), some goes to the Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund (\$35), and the remainder goes to the State Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund (\$15). Allocating the General Fund share of marriage license fees to the Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund...”

In order to facilitate this, we are proposing the following amendment:

32 V.S.A. § 1712 Town clerks

Town clerks shall receive the following fees for issuing marriage licenses and vital event certificates:

(1) For issuing and recording a civil marriage license, \$60.00 to be paid by the applicant, \$10.00 of which sum shall be retained by the town clerk as a fee, \$35.00 and \$50.00 of which shall be deposited in the Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund created by 13 V.S.A. § 5360, and \$15.00 of which sum shall be paid by the town clerk to the State Treasurer in a return filed quarterly upon forms furnished by the State Treasurer and specifying all fees received by him or her during the quarter. Such quarterly period shall be as of the first day of January, April, July, and October.

