THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1231

Session of 1984

INTRODUCED BY CORMAN, STOUT, SHAFFER, RHOADES AND SINGEL, JANUARY 30, 1984

REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 30, 1984

AN ACT

- 1 Establishing the fees to be charged and received by sheriffs.
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- 8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- 9 hereby enacts as follows:
- 10 Section 1. Short title.
- 11 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Sheriff Fee
- 12 Act.
- 13 Section 2. Counties included.
- 14 In counties of the second class, second class A and third
- 15 through eighth class and home rule counties, the fees, including
- 16 commissions and mileage, to be received by the sheriff from
- 17 persons or counties requiring services of the sheriff shall be
- 18 as set forth in this act.
- 19 Section 3. Civil and criminal actions.
- 20 (a) General rule.--Fees for the services of the sheriff
- 21 involved with civil actions, criminal proceedings or public
- 22 matters required by any court, statute or regulation including,
- 23 but not limited to, writs, complaints, orders, equity matters,
- 24 subpoenas, interrogatories and official notices, are as follows:
- 25 (1) Receiving, docketing and making return.... \$7.00
- 26 (2) Service, either personally by the sheriff
- or by copy served or posted:
- 29 (ii) Each additional defendant or person

1	(3) Making each copy served or posted 3.00
2	(4) Deputizing the sheriff of another county to
3	enable the other sheriff to make service or
4	accomplish an act 5.00
5	(5) Making a return of an item delivered to the
6	sheriff too late to serve before expiration 3.00
7	(6) Return of non est inventus (person to be
8	served cannot be found within the jurisdiction of
9	sheriff)
10	(7) Attesting each copy of a document which is
11	to be served
12	(8) Service by publication in newspapers, in
13	addition to the actual cost of publication and
14	printing 9.00
15	(9) Taking an affidavit of one person 1.50
16	(10) Taking an affidavit of each additional
17	person
18	(b) Additional feesFor service of an item or copy not
19	specifically provided for in subsection (a), the sheriff shall
20	charge and receive the same fee as allowed for a writ served in
21	a similar way otherwise provided for in subsection (a), in
22	addition to a fee of the prothonotary chargeable against the
23	sheriff in relation thereto; but no charge shall be made for an
24	affidavit of service except the fee of the notary or other
25	official administering the oath of affirmation.
26	(c) Alias or pluries writNo charge for service shall be
27	made upon an alias or pluries writ if a charge has been made
28	upon the original with respect to a defendant already served.
29	Section 4. Real estate executions.
30	(a) General rule For executing court-issued writs or

1	orders requiring the levy, seizure or sale of lands and
2	tenements, the following fees apply and, unless otherwise stated
3	in this section, shall be paid by the plaintiff, petitioner or
4	other moving party:
5	(1) Receiving, docketing and making return \$7.00
6	(2) Serving or posting a notice or copy 7.00
7	(3) Levying on each separate piece or parcel of
8	land 7.00
9	(4) Service of a writ against real estate of
10	defendant requiring service on third party for each
11	party 9.00
12	(5) Making immediate return of service on a
13	garnishee when writ or other item is retained for
14	further action
15	(6) Advertising public sale in newspaper, for
16	each parcel of land, in addition to cost of
17	publication and printer's bill 9.00
18	(7) Advertising public sale by handbills, for
19	each parcel of land separately described by metes
20	and bounds or otherwise, in addition to publication
21	and printer's bills
22	(8) Each sale held subsequent to the first
23	sale
24	(9) Crying the sale of each separate parcel of
25	land separately sold
26	(10) Distribution of proceeds 9.00
27	(11) Executing and acknowledging a deed to real
28	property, payment to be made by grantee 10.00
29	(b) Additional feesExcept under subsection (a)(8), the
30	sheriff shall receive as an official fee a commission, based
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- 1 upon the total amount bid for the property, whether paid to the
- 2 sheriff or credited to the purchaser, of 2% of the first
- 3 \$250,000 and of 0.5% of the remaining amount.
- 4 (c) Fees chargeable to sheriff. -- The purchaser shall pay to
- 5 the sheriff fees of the prothonotary and fees of the recorder
- 6 chargeable by the prothonotary or the recorder to the sheriff
- 7 relating to consummation of real estate executions including,
- 8 but not limited to, the recording of the deed.
- 9 Section 5. Executing writs, orders and decrees.
- 10 For executing a writ of inquiry, partition, condemnation,
- 11 appraisement or inquisition or a similar writ, order or decree
- 12 issued by a court, district justice, or commissioner under a
- 13 statute, the party procuring execution shall pay the following
- 14 fees:
- 15 (1) Receiving, docketing, and making return.... \$7.00
- 16 (2) Summoning parties or persons in possession
- 17 personally or by copy served or posted
- 19 (ii) Each additional service...... 4.00
- 20 (3) Making and certifying each copy served or
- 21 posted...... 4.00
- 22 (4) Summoning and swearing special jurors..... 15.00
- 23 (5) Holding inquisition or appraisal of real

- 26 (7) Serving by publication as required by law
- 28 (8) Delivering lands to plaintiff in
- inquisition or similar proceedings..... 9.00
- 30 Section 6. Executing writs.

1	(a) General rule For executing execution writs, fraudulent	-
2	debtors attachment, retorno habendo, replevin, or order issued	
3	by a court requiring the levy, seizure or sale of personal	
4	property, unless otherwise provided in this section, the party	
5	procuring execution shall pay the following fees:	
6	(1) Receiving, docketing and making return \$7.00)
7	(2) Serving or posting a copy or notice 7.00)
8	(3) Each levy on personal property 10.00)
9	(4) Seizing personal property levied upon 10.00)
10	(5) Making return of nulla bona (unable to find	
11	goods to levy upon)9.00)
12	(6) Advertising personal property for public	
13	sale by handbills9.00)
14	(7) Each adjourned sale)
15	(8) Service upon a garnishee)
16	(9) Receiving a claim of exemption or immunity	
17	and notifying parties in interest to the filing of	
18	the claim 9.00)
19	(10) Receiving and docketing each claim to	
20	property or to proceeds produced by sale thereof, to	
21	be paid by claimant upon the filing of the claim 10.00)
22	(11) Notifying an agency as required by law of	
23	the proposed sale of the property or franchise of a	
24	corporation or joint stock association, liquid fuels	
25	producer or distributor)
26	(12) Appraising personal property under a	
27	statute or at the request of a party or arranging an	
28	appraisal by another)
29	(13) Making arrangements to preserve property	
30	taken into legal custody including, but not limited	

- to, obtaining a watchman, together with the cost of
- 2 compensation for the watchman by the party benefited
- 4 (14) Securing insurance; arranging goods for
- 5 sale; furnishing heat, light, power, storage, rent,
- 6 transportation and supplies; feeding livestock; and
- 7 meeting similar expenses incurred in caring for and
- 8 keeping the goods and chattels levied upon or
- 9 attached, when the same are necessary or
- 10 advantageous, or when requested by any party
- interested to incur any such expense, the actual
- 12 costs thereof to be paid by the plaintiff,
- petitioner or party requiring same to be incurred,
- 14 providing any surplus of advances for same to be
- 15 refunded.
- 16 (b) Additional fees.--The sheriff shall receive as an
- 17 official fee a commission, based upon the total amount bid for
- 18 the property, whether paid to the sheriff or credited to the
- 19 purchaser, of 2% of the first \$100,000 and of 0.5% of the
- 20 remaining amount.
- 21 Section 7. Settlement or staying of writs.
- 22 For the settlement or staying by the plaintiff of a writ
- 23 relating to property, execution not being concluded, the sheriff
- 24 shall receive the same fees for receiving, docketing and
- 25 returning, levying, advertising and performing other functions
- 26 enumerated in this act, including commission as would be
- 27 chargeable if the sale had been made upon the writ, on the
- 28 amount paid to settle or stay the writ, whether the sum is paid
- 29 to the sheriff or to the plaintiff or a compromise is made
- 30 between plaintiff and defendant for the future payment to

satisfy the writ. 1 2 Section 8. Property claims. For processing of property claims filed under statute or 3 4 rules of civil procedure, the claimant shall pay the following 5 fees: Receiving and filing of property claim.... 6 (1)\$10.00 9.00 7 (2) Staying the execution and providing notice. 8 Making determination as to the owner of the property without hearing and filing in the 9 10 prothonotary's office the determination and 11 valuation..... 9.00 (4) Determining ownership of property with a 12 13 formal hearing and filing in the prothonotary's office the determination and valuation..... 18.00 14 15 (5) Appraising property by the sheriff and 16 giving notice..... 10.00 Section 9. Venire facias. 17 18 For executing venire facias or venire facias juratores issued 19 by a court, the following fees shall be paid by the county: Receiving, docketing and making return on 20 each writ..... 21 \$10.00 22 Drawing names of jurors from the jury wheel 23 and summoning the jurors or summoning jurors drawn by a jury board or commissioner, for each juror 24 25 drawn..... 2.00 26 Section 10. Writs of ejectment or possession. 27 For executing writs of ejectment or possession, 28 dower or similar writs requiring the delivery of 29 possession of real property or ejecting or 30 dispossessing a person of personal property, the

1	claimant shall pay\$20.00
2	Section 11. Warrants and attachments.
3	For executing a process, warrant, attachment, decree,
4	sentence or order of the court, issued in court on a person or
5	taking the defendant's body into custody, the party procuring
6	the process, writ, order or decree or, if the Commonwealth is
7	interested, the county, will pay the following fees:
8	(1) Receiving, docketing and making return \$7.00
9	(2) Each arrest
10	(3) Each commitment to jail, correctional
11	institution, asylum or place of detention pursuant
12	to lawful order 10.00
13	(4) Removing a person from any place of
14	confinement pursuant to lawful order 9.00
15	Section 12. Sheriff in charge of prison.
16	If the sheriff is in charge of a jail, prison or place of
17	detention, the sheriff shall receive allowances for the custody,
18	care and maintenance of prisoners and inmates as may be fixed by
19	the courts or official boards of the respective counties having
20	supervision of the institutions, or as the courts or boards may
21	approve, upon submitted bills to be paid by the county in
22	addition to compensation for services fixed by statute, by a
23	court or by official board authorized to fix the compensation.
24	Section 13. Attending court.
25	For attending court, when required to do so by law or by a
26	judge or district attorney, or bringing into or removing
27	therefrom prisoners for arraignment, trial or sentence or
28	witnesses held in custody, an hourly rate equivalent to the
29	prevailing wage scale of the performing sheriff's office shall
30	be paid by the county for each deputy or special deputy actually

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- 1 present.
- 2 Section 14. Licenses.
- 3 For issuing and recording of a license, the licensee shall
- 4 pay in addition to a fee payable to the county or Commonwealth,
- 5 the following fees:
- 6 (1) Issuing a license to sell firearms directly
- 7 to a consumer......\$10.00
- 8 (2) Issuing or reissuing a license to carry a
- 9 firearm on or about one's person..... 5.00
- 10 Section 15. Conservator of the peace.
- 11 (a) Sheriff.--For the services performed in the capacity as
- 12 a conservator of the peace or police officer in suppressing
- 13 riots, mobs or insurrections, and when discharging any duty
- 14 requiring the summoning of a posse, comitatus or special deputy
- 15 sheriffs, the sheriff shall receive per diem compensation at the
- 16 rate of \$50 in a county for eight hours service, together with
- 17 the mileage and necessary expenses, including subsistence for
- 18 the sheriff and those under him, all to be paid by the county.
- 19 (b) Deputies.--For each special deputy appointed by the
- 20 sheriff in the case of an emergency, to assist in executing
- 21 civil or criminal process or court order or preserving the
- 22 peace, the sheriff shall receive from the county, for
- 23 compensation of the deputy, an hourly rate equal to the
- 24 prevailing wage scale of the sheriff's office, together with the
- 25 expenses incurred for transportation and subsistence of the
- 26 deputy.
- 27 Section 16. Mileage.
- 28 For mileage in serving and executing writs, official notices,
- 29 rules, decrees, orders or processes, or copies thereof, or
- 30 performing the duties or services specified in this act or

- 1 authorized by law, the sheriff shall receive and may tax as
- 2 official costs the mileage fee as established by section 1 of
- 3 the act of July 20, 1979 (P.L.156, No.51), entitled "An act
- 4 establishing a uniform mileage fee for all officials, officers
- 5 and employees of the Commonwealth, its political subdivisions,
- 6 intermediate units, and authorities, "for each mile necessary to
- 7 be traveled by the sheriff, deputies or employees. The mileage
- 8 fee shall be received on each separate writ, rule, order,
- 9 decree, process or notice served or service performed. The
- 10 sheriff shall not receive more than one mileage where the
- 11 plaintiff and the defendant and two or more contemporaneous
- 12 writs are the same, or when two or more persons or prisoners
- 13 are being conducted at one time to or from a place of detention
- 14 or correction. The sheriff shall receive the mileage fee for
- 15 transporting the prisoners and the deputies guarding them, and
- 16 meals and lodging during the journey and the return of the
- 17 deputies.
- 18 Section 17. Appraisals.
- 19 For appraisal in a proceeding, the sheriff or an interested
- 20 party may petition the court having jurisdiction over the matter
- 21 for an order fixing the sum to be paid to the sheriff for
- 22 services, for compensation of services of expert appraisers, or
- 23 for other property costs of making the appraisal, which sum
- 24 shall be a legal cost of proceedings. The court in its order
- 25 shall determine who shall pay for the costs unless otherwise
- 26 provided by law.
- 27 Section 18. Other matters.
- 28 For the executing of a matter directed to the sheriff or
- 29 required by law or rule of court, the performance of which is
- 30 not mentioned in this act, the sheriff shall receive the same

- 1 official fees, commissions and legal costs, including mileage,
- 2 as for similar services specifically provided for in this act.
- 3 Section 19. County Court of Allegheny County.
- 4 In cases or proceedings of which the County Court of
- 5 Allegheny County has jurisdiction, the sheriff shall receive the
- 6 same fees, commissions and costs, including mileage, for
- 7 official services in connection therewith, as for similar
- 8 services in like proceedings in other courts of the
- 9 Commonwealth.
- 10 Section 20. Costs to be additional.
- 11 In addition to fees provided for in this act, the sheriff
- 12 shall be paid costs, charges and expenses incident to the
- 13 performance of an act required by court, order, statute, rule or
- 14 regulation including, but not limited to, printing costs,
- 15 publication costs, services of experts, watchmen, postage and
- 16 mileage, which shall be costs to be paid by the plaintiff,
- 17 petitioner or person requiring them to be incurred.
- 18 Section 21. Repeals.
- 19 The following acts or parts of acts are repealed insofar as
- 20 they are inconsistent with this act:
- 21 42 Pa.C.S. § 1725 (relating to establishment of fees and
- 22 charges).
- 23 Section 24(a) of the act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.586, No.142),
- 24 known as the Judiciary Act of 1976.
- 25 Section 22. Effective date.
- 26 This act shall take effect in 30 days.