

No. 2000-36

## AN ACT

HB 1635

Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, authorizing clerks of courts of common pleas to increase certain fees and to impose automation fees.

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

Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 1725.4. *Fee increases and automation fee.*

(a) *Increasing existing fees.—*

(1) *In counties of the second class A and the third through eighth class, including home rule counties of the same class, the clerk of courts 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.*

(2) *The amount of any fee or charge increased pursuant to paragraph (1) 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.*

(b) *Automation fee for clerk of courts 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 clerk of courts 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 clerk of courts 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 clerk of courts.*

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 22nd day of June, A.D. 2000.

THOMAS J. RIDGE