

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4419
OFFERED BY MS. NORTON OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA

Add at the end the following new sections:

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF PROBATE DIVISION TO USE MAG-**
2 **ISTRATE JUDGES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11–1732(j)(5), District of
4 Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking “Family
5 Divisions” and inserting “Probate Divisions, and the
6 Family Court,”.

7 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
8 Section 11–1732(j)(4)(A), District of Columbia Official
9 Code, is amended by striking “Family Division” and in-
10 serting “Family Court”.

11 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS TO**
12 **ACCEPT CERTAIN TYPES OF PAYMENTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of
14 title 11, District of Columbia Code, is amended by adding
15 at the end the following:

16 **“§ 11–1748. Authority of courts to accept certain**
17 **types of payments**

18 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term ‘elec-
19 tronic funds transfer’—

1 “(1) means a transfer of funds, other than a
2 transaction by check, draft, or similar paper instru-
3 ment, that is initiated through an electronic ter-
4 minal, telephone, or computer or magnetic tape for
5 the purpose of ordering, instructing, or authorizing
6 a financial institution to debit or credit an account;
7 and

8 “(2) includes point of sale transfers, automated
9 teller machine transfers, direct deposit or withdrawal
10 of funds, transfers initiated by telephone, and trans-
11 fers resulting from debit card transactions.

12 “(b) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARD PAY-
13 MENTS AND ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFERS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The District of Columbia
15 courts may accept payment of fines, fees, escrow
16 payments, restitution, bonds, and other payments to
17 the courts by credit card or electronic funds trans-
18 fer.

19 “(2) USE OF VENDORS AND THIRD PARTY PRO-
20 VIDERS.—The Executive officer—

21 “(A) may contract with a bank or credit
22 card vendor, or other third party provider, for
23 purposes of accepting payments by credit card
24 or electronic funds transfer; and

1 “(B) shall make every effort to find the
2 lowest cost vendor for purposes of accepting
3 such payments.

4 “(3) RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYING FEES.—
5 Under any contract entered into under paragraph
6 (2), the person making the payment shall be respon-
7 sible for covering any fee or charge associated or im-
8 posed with respect to the method of payment.

9 “(4) COMPLETION OF PAYMENT.—If a person
10 elects to make a payment to the District of Colum-
11 bia courts by a method authorized under paragraph
12 (1), the payment shall not be deemed to be made
13 until the courts receive the funds.

14 “(c) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CHECKS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The District of Columbia
16 courts may accept payment of fines, fees, escrow
17 payments, restitution, bonds, and other payments to
18 the courts by check.

19 “(2) USE OF CHECK GUARANTEE VENDOR.—
20 The Executive Officer—

21 “(A) may contract with a check guarantee
22 vendor for purposes of accepting payments by
23 check; and

1 “(B) shall make every effort to find the
2 lowest cost vendor for purposes of accepting
3 such payments.

4 “(3) RESPONSIBILITY FOR PAYING FEES.—
5 Under any contract entered into under paragraph
6 (2), the person making the payment by check shall
7 be responsible for covering any fee or charge associ-
8 ated or imposed with respect to the method of pay-
9 ment.

10 “(d) LIABILITY FOR NON-PAYMENT.—If a check or
11 other method of payment, including payment by credit
12 card, debit card, or charge card, so received is not duly
13 paid, or is paid and subsequently charged back to the Dis-
14 trict of Columbia courts, the person by whom such check
15 or other method of payment has been tendered shall re-
16 main liable for the payment, to the same extent as if such
17 check or other method of payment had not been ten-
18 dered.”.

19 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
20 The table of sections for subchapter III of chapter 17 of
21 title 11, District of Columbia Code, is amended by adding
22 at the end the following:

“11–1748. Authority of courts to accept certain types of payments.”.

1 **SEC. 5. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY**
2 **PERMITTED FOR CASES UNDER JURISDIC-**
3 **TION OF SMALL CLAIMS AND CONCILIATION**
4 **BRANCH OF SUPERIOR COURT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11–1321, District of Co-
6 lumbia Official Code, is amended by striking “\$5,000”
7 and inserting “\$10,000”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9 subsection (a) shall apply to any case filed in the Superior
10 Court of the District of Columbia on or after the date of
11 enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO APPROVE COMPENSATION OF AT-**
13 **TORNEYS IN EXCESS OF MAXIMUM AMOUNT.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—

15 (1) CRIMINAL DEFENSE APPOINTMENTS.—Sec-
16 tion 11–2604(e), District of Columbia Official Code,
17 is amended by striking the last sentence and insert-
18 ing the following: “Each chief judge may delegate
19 such approval authority to an active or senior judge
20 in the court in which the chief judge sits.”.

21 (2) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT APPOINT-
22 MENTS.—Section 16–2326.01(f), District of Colum-
23 bia Official Code, is amended—

24 (A) by striking “(f)(1)” and inserting
25 “(f)”;

26 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:

2 “Each chief judge may delegate such approval
3 authority to an active or senior judge in the
4 court in which the chief judge sits.”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any case or pro-
7 ceeding initiated on or after the date of enactment of this
8 Act.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts and to make other improvements to the District of Columbia courts.”.

