

Chapter 223

(House Bill 355)

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Procedure – Programs for Survivors of Homicide Victims

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to help establish and expand programs for survivors of homicide victims in the State; requiring the programs to serve survivors of homicide victims in all parts of the State; requiring the programs to include certain elements; ~~authorizing~~ requiring the Office to award certain grants; requiring the Office to regularly consult, collaborate with, and consider the recommendations of certain service providers on certain matters; requiring money for the programs for survivors of homicide victims to be as provided in the annual State budget and to be used to supplement, but not supplant, money that the programs receive from other sources; requiring the Executive Director of the Office to include a report on the programs for survivors of homicide victims in a certain annual report submitted to the General Assembly; establishing certain findings of the General Assembly; and generally relating to programs for survivors of homicide victims.

BY adding to

Article – Criminal Procedure

Section 11–1006

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Criminal Procedure

11–1006.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN THE STATE:

(1) LACK NECESSARY COUNSELING AND FOLLOW-UP SERVICES TO:

(I) TREAT THE SURVIVORS WITH DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND SENSITIVITY; AND

(II) INFORM THE SURVIVORS OF THE RIGHTS TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED BY LAW; AND

(2) HAVE THE HELP OF ONLY EXTREMELY LIMITED SUPPORT SERVICES IN SOME PARTS OF THE STATE.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO FACILITATE PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS.

(C) (1) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION SHALL HELP ESTABLISH AND EXPAND PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN THE STATE.

(2) THE PROGRAMS SHALL:

(I) SERVE SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN ALL PARTS OF THE STATE;

(II) PROVIDE OR FACILITATE REFERRALS TO APPROPRIATE COUNSELING, LEGAL, MENTAL HEALTH, AND ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS INCLUDING SPECIALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES TO ADULT AND MINOR SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS; AND

(III) PROVIDE A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER AND ASSISTANCE TO EXERCISE THE RIGHTS TO WHICH THE SURVIVORS ARE ENTITLED BY LAW.

(D) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION ~~MAY~~ SHALL AWARD GRANTS TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO OPERATE THE PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS.

(E) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION REGULARLY SHALL CONSULT, COLLABORATE WITH, AND CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SERVICE PROVIDERS TO SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS REGARDING PROGRAMS, POLICIES, PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES THAT IMPACT SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS.

(F) MONEY FOR THE PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET AND SHALL BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT, BUT NOT SUPPLANT, MONEY THAT THE PROGRAMS RECEIVE FROM OTHER SOURCES.

(G) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION SHALL INCLUDE A REPORT ON THE PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS IN THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2014.