

BY: House Judiciary Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 898

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike in its entirety line 2, and substitute "Court Costs - State Aid for Police Protection, Criminal Injuries Compensation, and Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation"; and strike beginning with "and" in line 11 down through "protection" in line 12 and substitute "requiring certain funds to be paid to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund; establishing the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund; providing for the continuance, accounting, investment and receipt of funds, audit, and purpose of the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund; and generally relating to court costs".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 27, insert:

"BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

Section 770A

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)".

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, in line 16, strike "\$3.00" and substitute "\$2.50"; in line 18, strike "\$1.00" and substitute "FIFTY CENTS"; in line 31, strike "\$1,500" and substitute "\$1,200"; and in line 37, strike "\$25" and substitute "\$20".

On page 3, in line 8, strike "\$25" and substitute "\$20"; and in line 23, strike "ONE-FIFTH" and substitute "ONE-FOURTH".

(Over)

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 3, after line 24, insert:

“(F) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ANNUALLY PAY FROM THE COURT COSTS COLLECTED BY THE DISTRICT COURT UNDER SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION :

(1) \$500,000 INTO THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 26A, § 17A OF THE CODE; AND

(2) \$125,000 INTO THE VICTIM AND WITNESS PROTECTION AND RELOCATION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 770A OF THE CODE.

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

770A.

(A) (1) THERE IS A VICTIM AND WITNESS PROTECTION AND RELOCATION FUND.

(2) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(3) THE TREASURER SHALL SEPARATELY HOLD AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

(4) THE FUND SHALL BE INVESTED AND REINVESTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE FUNDS.

(5) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OR FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE STATE FOR VICTIM AND WITNESS PROTECTION OR RELOCATION SHALL BE RETAINED TO THE CREDIT OF THE FUND.

(6) THE FUND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AN AUDIT BY THE DIVISION OF OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS AS PROVIDED UNDER § 2-1215 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(7) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE FUND FROM RECEIVING FUNDS FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE.

(B) THE FUND SHALL BE USED TO FUND THE VICTIM AND WITNESS PROTECTION AND RELOCATION PROGRAM UNDER § 770 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in Fiscal Year 1996, any unspent balance of an appropriation to the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program shall revert to the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund.”;

in line 25, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; and in line 26, strike “October” and substitute “July”.