

---

**By: Delegates Vallario, Pitkin, and Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1996

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Court Costs - Victims of Crime**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a court for a certain fiscal year to impose an additional  
4 court cost on certain criminal defendants; requiring that the fees collected be  
5 deposited to a certain fund; prohibiting a court from waiving any court costs for a  
6 certain fiscal year except under certain circumstances; authorizing the Governor to  
7 make certain transfers by budget amendment; and generally relating to the victims  
8 of crime and imposition of additional court costs on certain criminal defendants.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Chapter 204 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1993, as amended by Chapter  
11 474 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1994 and Chapter 396 of the Acts  
12 of the General Assembly of 1995  
13 Section 20

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

16 **Chapter 204 of the Acts of 1993, as amended by Chapter 474 of the Acts of 1994 and**  
17 **Chapter 396 of the Acts of 1995**

18 SECTION 20. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any  
19 other provision of law, for fiscal year [1996] 1997, in every case in which a defendant is  
20 found guilty, enters a plea of guilt or nolo contendere, or is given probation before  
21 judgment for an offense under the Motor Vehicle Law that is punishable by imprisonment  
22 or for any other criminal offense, including cases in which the defendant is represented by  
23 the Office of Public Defender, the District Court and the circuit courts shall require the  
24 defendant to pay an additional court cost of \$5. The court cost imposed under this section  
25 shall be in addition to any other court costs imposed in the District Court and the circuit  
26 courts. For fiscal year [1996] 1997, the court may not waive any court cost including the  
27 court cost imposed under this section unless the defendant establishes indigency as  
28 provided in the Maryland Rules. The funds collected under this section shall be remitted  
29 to the Comptroller and credited to the [General Fund] MARYLAND VICTIMS OF CRIME  
30 FUND.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other  
32 provision of law, any moneys credited to the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund from the

HOUSE BILL 1209

2

1 fee collected under this Act may be transferred by the Governor by budget amendment to  
2 the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program.

3           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 July 1, 1996.