

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 500 (Delegate Vallario. *et al.*)  
(Task Force to Examine Maryland's Crime Victims' Rights Laws)

Judiciary

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**Victims' Rights - Presence of Victims**

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This bill authorizes a victim's representative to be present at trial, or any other court proceeding, by expanding the meaning of "victim", "defendant", "representative", and "trial". The bill expands the number of crimes that are covered under these provisions by including juvenile acts and eliminating the need for the crime to have been a crime of violence.

The bill also narrows the circumstances in which a judge may order a victim to be sequestered by changing the grounds for sequestration from "good cause" to "materially affect the defendant's right to a fair trial". These provisions may not be construed to limit a victim's or representative's right to attend a trial or juvenile delinquency adjudicatory hearing as otherwise provided by statute.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The change is procedural in nature and would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, Maryland Parole Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 11, 1998  
Inc Revised - House Third Reader - March 28, 1998  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 6, 1998

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