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By: **Delegate Vallario (Task Force to Examine Maryland's Crime Victims' Rights Laws) and Delegates R. Baker, Barkley, Bartlett, Bobo, Boschert, Boutin, Bozman, Bronrott, Burns, Cadden, Cane, Clagett, Cole, Conroy, Cryor, DeCarlo, Dembrow, Dewberry, Doory, Dypski, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Finifter, Franchot, Fulton, Giannetti, Glassman, Hammen, Harrison, Healey, Heller, Hixson, Hubbard, Hutchins, A. Jones, V. Jones, Kach, K. Kelly, Kirk, Klima, Krysiak, La Vay, Leopold, Marriott, McHale, McIntosh, McKee, Menes, Mohorovic, Morhaim, O'Donnell, Owings, Paige, Parrott, Petzold, Pitkin, Proctor, Rawlings, Riley, Rosso, Rudolph, Shank, Sophocleus, Stern, Stocksdale, Turner, and Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Victims' Rights - Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program -**  
3 **Assistance for Victims and Witnesses**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that money appropriated to the Victim and Witness  
5 Protection and Relocation Program be used to assist victims and witnesses in a  
6 certain manner; and generally relating to the Victim and Witness Protection and  
7 Relocation Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
10 Section 835  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

15 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

16 835.

17 (a) There is a Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program.

18 (b) The Program shall be administered by the State's Attorneys' Coordinator  
19 under Article 10, § 41B of the Code in accordance with regulations adopted by the

1 State's Attorneys' Coordination Council under Article 10, § 41D of the Code after  
2 consultation with the State Board of Victim Services.

3 (c) Money appropriated to the Program shall be used to:

4 (1) Protect victims and witnesses and the families of victims and  
5 witnesses;

6 (2) [Relocate] ASSIST victims and witnesses for the purpose of protecting  
7 them or facilitating their participation in court proceedings; and

8 (3) Pay any costs of administering the Program.

9 (d) To the extent possible, the Program shall be used to maximize the use of  
10 federal matching funds or programs.

11 (e) Expenditures under this section shall be made pursuant to an  
12 appropriation approved by the General Assembly in the annual State budget.

13 (f) The Program shall be subject to an audit by the Office of Legislative Audits  
14 as provided under § 2-1220 of the State Government Article.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2000.