

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1445 (Chair, Judiciary Committee)(By Request - Departmental  
- Human Resources)  
Appropriations

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**Criminal Procedure - Transfer of Sexual Assault Crisis Program Funding and  
the Domestic Violence Program Funding to the Governor's Office of Crime  
Control and Prevention**

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This departmental bill transfers responsibility and funding for sexual assault crisis programs and domestic violence programs from the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2009.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Transferring responsibility and funding for programs between State agencies will not materially affect State finances. The proposed FY 2010 State budget includes \$5.4 million in funding for domestic violence and rape crisis programs within DHR. This funding will be transferred to GOCCP.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** DHR has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Secretary of DHR must help establish sexual assault crisis programs in the State. The programs must provide specialized support services to adult and minor alleged victims of sexual assault crimes and include hotline and counseling services. DHR may award grants to public or nonprofit organizations to operate the programs.

The Secretary of DHR is required to establish a program to help domestic violence victims and their children. The purpose of the program is to provide victims and their children temporary shelter or help in finding shelter, counseling, information, referrals, and rehabilitation. As funds become available, DHR may establish additional shelters or provide funds or technical assistance to local organizations or agencies that are able to run domestic violence programs.

**Background:** The Office of Grants Management within DHR includes three programs with victim-services components: victims of crime assistance, domestic violence, and rape crisis/sexual assault. The domestic violence and rape crisis/sexual assault programs were created by statute, therefore, legislation is required to transfer the programs to GOCCP. GOCCP advises that to fully implement the transfer of the programs, the victims of crime assistance program will be concurrently transferred by executive order.

GOCCP currently administers two funds that support victim services: Maryland Victims of Crime special funds and STOP Violence Against Women Act federal funds. The transfer of these programs from DHR to GOCCP is intended to achieve overall operational and fiscal efficiencies. Administering federal and State grant funds is a primary function of GOCCP. As of January 30, 2009, there were a total of 686 active grants totaling over \$111 million under GOCCP management. GOCCP advises that internal reorganization within the office allows it to monitor grant programs more efficiently and effectively.

In fiscal 2008, community-based support services were provided to 45,000 victims.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Department of Human Resources, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 25, 2009  
ncs/hlb

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Criminal Procedure-Transfer of Sexual Assault Crisis Program Funding and the Domestic Violence Program Funding to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

BILL NUMBER: HB 1445

PREPARED BY: Department of Human Resources

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND  
SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed legislation will have no impact on small business in Maryland.