

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 484

(Senator Hettleman)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Criminal Procedure - Victims of Crime - Private Room

This bill requires the State Board of Victim Services to develop a poster to notify victims of the right to request a private room in a law enforcement agency or unit to report crimes under Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article (Other Crimes Against the Person). The bill also requires each law enforcement agency to display the poster and provide, on request, a private room to a victim to report information related to such crimes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS) and State law enforcement agencies can implement the bill with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Local law enforcement agencies can implement the bill with existing resources. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background:

State Board of Victim Services

The State Board of Victim Services in GOCPYVS consists of 22 members representing crime victims, service providers, and various criminal justice related agencies. The mission of the board is to ensure that all crime victims in the State receive justice and are treated

with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victim services. Subject to the authority of the Executive Director of GOCPYVS, the board must, among other things:

- monitor the service needs of victims;
- advise the Governor on the needs of victims; and
- develop specified pamphlets to notify victims and victim’s representatives of certain rights, services, and procedures and how to request (1) information regarding an unsolved case and (2) that an offender be placed on electronic monitoring or electronic monitoring with victim stay-away alert technology, as specified.

Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article – Other Crimes Against the Person

Title 3 of the Criminal Law Article specifies crimes, other than homicide, that primarily involve injury to a person rather than property. Those crimes include (1) suicide; (2) assault, reckless endangerment, and related crimes; (3) sexual crimes; (4) robbery; (5) kidnapping; (6) abuse and other offensive conducts; (7) extortion and other threats; (8) stalking and harassment; (9) surveillance and other crimes against privacy; (10) threat of mass violence; (11) human trafficking; and (12) labor trafficking.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1294 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: HB 193 (Delegate Guyton) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Somerset counties; City of Havre de Grace; Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 21, 2021
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