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SENATE BILL 921/HOUSE BILL 974 Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program – Establishment

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 1, 2023

COMMITTEE: Rules Committee (Senate) and Judiciary Committee (House)

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 921 and HB 974 create the Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program and the Gun Violence Victim Relocation Fund within the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS). The bill mandates a one-time appropriation of \$10 million for the fund in FY 2025.

EXPLANATION: The Gun Violence Victim Relocation Program and Fund provide victims of gun violence, or those living in proximity to where a crime of gun violence occurs, with a variety of services. These services include relocating the victim and their family, providing the victim with financial support, providing the victim with counseling, and providing the victim with legal assistance.

Since these bills establish a new program in GOCPYVS, there is no current funding in the Governor’s FY 2024 allowance for this specific program. However, there are currently grants in GOCPYVS that provide similar services. The Victim Witness Protection Fund provides protection and relocation of victims and witnesses and is administered by the State’s Attorney’s Coordinator. The Victim Witness Protection Fund has a special fund appropriation of \$300,000 in the Governor’s FY 2024 allowance. The STOP Gun Violence Grant assists law enforcement agencies and prosecutors who have a demonstrated need, combined with a viable plan, to address firearms related violence in their jurisdictions. The STOP Gun Violence Grant has a general fund appropriation of \$927,000 in the Governor’s FY 2024 allowance.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and strives to create a structurally balanced budget, in which the growth in spending is less than the growth in revenues. In light of current economic uncertainty and the potential for a downturn, the Department urges caution in passing legislation significantly expanding State required expenditures without offsetting revenues. General fund mandates can have the effect of crowding out the State’s ability to fund staffing, salary adjustments, and in general invest strategically and holistically in State government’s human capital and the infrastructure required to carry out State government’s mission. State government must be intentional, disciplined, and strategic with its allocation of State funding to ensure maximum impact toward priority outcomes.

General Fund Structural Budget Outlook, Fiscal 2024 – 2028 (\$ millions)

	Est. 2024	Est. 20235	Est. 2026	Est. 2027	Est. 2028
Structural Balance	\$337	\$232	\$263	\$529	\$1,113
Adjusted for Blueprint				-\$963	-\$1,207

Department of Legislative Services, January 2023 Fiscal Briefing

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