

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1294  
Judiciary

(Delegate Guyton)

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**Criminal Procedure - Victims of Crime - Private Room**

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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.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any potential costs to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) associated with creating the specified poster and distributing it to law enforcement agencies are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. 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.

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## Analysis

### **Current Law/Background:**

#### *State Board of Victim Services*

The State Board of Victim Services in GOCCP 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 GOCCP, 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; and (11) human and labor trafficking.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** cities of Baltimore and Westminster; Kent, Montgomery, Washington, and Worcester counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Town of Leonardtown; Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Department of General Services; Department of Natural Resources; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2020  
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