

HOUSE BILL 1209

E2, P1

7lr2952
CF SB 734

By: Delegates A. Miller, Anderson, Atterbeary, B. Barnes, Chang, Dumais, Gaines, Gutierrez, Haynes, Hettleman, C. Howard, Jackson, Jones, Kelly, Knotts, Korman, Lafferty, Lam, Lierman, Morales, Pena–Melnyk, Queen, Reznik, Sanchez, Valderrama, Valentino–Smith, C. Wilson, and K. Young

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2017

Assigned to: Appropriations and Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2017

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sexual Assault Victims Resources Act of 2017**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the services to be provided by certain sexual assault crisis
4 programs; specifying criteria for receiving certain grant funding; requiring the
5 Governor to include certain funding in the State budget; authorizing the Governor,
6 under certain circumstances, to reduce a certain appropriation; providing for the
7 allocation of certain grant money; stating certain findings of the General Assembly;
8 establishing the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding
9 Committee; providing for the composition, terms, quorum, meetings, and staffing of
10 the Committee; prohibiting a member of the Committee from receiving certain
11 compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the
12 Committee to develop and disseminate certain best practices information and
13 recommendations; authorizing the Committee to adopt rules governing its operation;
14 requiring the Attorney General to adopt certain regulations in consultation with the
15 Committee; requiring the Committee to make certain evaluations regarding State
16 and local funding; requiring the Committee to report on its activities to the Governor
17 and the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; defining a certain
18 term; and generally relating to resources for sexual assault victims.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Criminal Procedure

21 Section 11–923

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

3 BY adding to
4 Article – Criminal Procedure
5 Section 11–927
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

10 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

11 11–923.

12 (a) The General Assembly finds that an increasing number of sexual assault
13 offense victims in the State:

14 (1) lack necessary counseling and follow–up services; and

15 (2) in some parts of the State, have only the help of extremely limited
16 support services.

17 (b) The purpose of this section is to provide for sexual assault crisis programs that
18 address the special needs of sexual assault victims.

19 (c) (1) The Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall help
20 establish sexual assault crisis programs in the State.

21 (2) The programs shall be developed and located to facilitate their use by
22 alleged victims residing in surrounding areas.

23 (3) The programs shall:

24 (i) provide specialized support services to adult and minor alleged
25 victims of sexual assault crimes; [and]

26 (ii) include a hotline and counseling service;

27 **(III) PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ALLEGED VICTIMS OF SEXUAL**
28 **ASSAULT CRIMES REGARDING:**

29 **1. CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**
30 **CRIMES;**

1 2. **CIVIL LAW REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS OF**
2 **SEXUAL ASSAULT;**

3 3. **SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION; AND**

4 4. **VICTIM RIGHTS; AND**

5 **(IV) PARTICIPATE IN THE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM IN**
6 **EACH COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROGRAM REGULARLY PROVIDES SERVICES.**

7 (d) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention may award grants to
8 public or private nonprofit organizations to operate the sexual assault crisis programs
9 **CERTIFIED BY THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION.**

10 (e) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall regularly consult,
11 collaborate with, and consider the recommendations of the federally recognized State
12 sexual assault coalition regarding sexual assault crisis programs and policies, practices,
13 and procedures that impact victims of sexual assault.

14 (f) **(1)** Money for the sexual assault crisis programs shall be as provided in the
15 annual State budget and shall be used to supplement, but not supplant, money that the
16 programs receive from other sources.

17 **(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**
18 **IN EACH FISCAL YEAR THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET**
19 **BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF NOT LESS THAN \$3,000,000 FOR THE FEDERALLY**
20 **RECOGNIZED STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS**
21 **PROGRAMS FUNDED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

22 **(3) IN EACH FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING WITH FISCAL YEAR 2019, THE**
23 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL SUBMITTED TO THE**
24 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT**
25 **CRISIS PROGRAMS FUNDED UNDER THIS SECTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN**
26 **THE APPROPRIATION MADE FOR THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAMS IN THE**
27 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, INCREASED BY NOT LESS THAN THE**
28 **PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE PROJECTED TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR**
29 **THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR EXCEED THE REVISED ESTIMATE OF TOTAL GENERAL**
30 **FUND REVENUES SUBMITTED BY THE BOARD OF REVENUE ESTIMATES TO THE**
31 **GOVERNOR UNDER § 6-106(B) OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT**
32 **ARTICLE.**

33 **(4) (I) IF A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT**
34 **COALITION AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAM RECEIVE A NEW AWARD OF**
35 **FUNDS UNDER THE FEDERAL VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT FOR A PURPOSE FOR WHICH**
36 **FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED UNDER PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**

1 THE GOVERNOR MAY REDUCE THE APPROPRIATION REQUIRED UNDER
2 PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION BY THE AMOUNT RECEIVED UNDER
3 THE FEDERAL VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT.

4 (II) THE REDUCTION AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH
5 MAY NOT EXCEED 40% OF THE APPROPRIATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPHS (2)
6 AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

7 (III) THE GOVERNOR MAY NOT REDUCE THE APPROPRIATION
8 UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IF THE FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THE FEDERAL VICTIMS
9 OF CRIME ACT HAVE BEEN AWARDED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2017, OR ARE
10 AWARDED FOR CONTINUATION OF SERVICES PREVIOUSLY FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL
11 VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT.

12 (5) AN APPROPRIATION MADE UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE
13 ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

14 (I) AT LEAST \$100,000 TO THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED
15 STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION;

16 (II) AT LEAST \$100,000 TO EACH OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT
17 CRISIS PROGRAMS PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION; AND

18 (III) THE BALANCE OF THE APPROPRIATION TO BE DISTRIBUTED
19 TO THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAMS PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (D) OF
20 THIS SECTION WITH EACH SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAM RECEIVING A
21 PROPORTIONATE SHARE RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO RESIDE
22 IN THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA REGULARLY SERVED BY THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS
23 PROGRAM.

24 (g) The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and
25 Prevention shall include a report on the sexual assault crisis programs in the annual report
26 submitted by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to the General
27 Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

28 (h) (1) The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention shall establish
29 and sustain child advocacy centers in the State.

30 (2) The child advocacy centers:

31 (i) may be based in private nonprofit organizations, local
32 departments of social services, local law enforcement agencies, or a partnership among any
33 of these entities;

1 (ii) shall be developed and located to facilitate their use by alleged
2 victims residing in the surrounding areas;

3 (iii) shall investigate allegations of sexual crimes against children
4 and sexual abuse of minors;

5 (iv) shall provide or facilitate referrals to appropriate counseling,
6 legal, medical, and advocacy services for victims; and

7 (v) shall be included in all joint investigation procedures developed
8 in accordance with § 5–706 of the Family Law Article.

9 (3) The Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention may contract
10 with public or private nonprofit organizations to operate child advocacy centers.

11 (4) Money for child advocacy centers shall be as provided in the annual
12 State budget and shall be used to supplement, but not supplant, money that the programs
13 receive from other sources.

14 (5) On or before January 1 each year, the Governor’s Office of Crime
15 Control and Prevention shall submit an annual report, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the
16 State Government Article, on child advocacy centers to the General Assembly.

17 **11–927.**

18 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “COMMITTEE” MEANS THE MARYLAND SEXUAL
19 ASSAULT EVIDENCE KIT POLICY AND FUNDING COMMITTEE.

20 (B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

21 (1) THERE IS A LACK OF CONSISTENT POLICIES REGARDING SEXUAL
22 ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION IN THE STATE;

23 (2) EFFECTIVE POLICIES REGARDING COLLECTION OF MEDICAL
24 FORENSIC EVIDENCE ARE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF PROVIDING SEXUAL
25 ASSAULT VICTIMS WITH ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND OF HOLDING THE PERPETRATORS
26 OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS ACCOUNTABLE;

27 (3) SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION EXAMS ARE
28 UNAVAILABLE AT MANY HOSPITALS;

29 (4) THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINERS
30 QUALIFIED TO PERFORM SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION;

31 (5) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES LACK A UNIFORM APPROACH FOR
32 TESTING AND RETAINING SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE KITS;

1 **(6) HOSPITALS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND OTHERS IN THE**
2 **JUSTICE SYSTEM LACK THE RESOURCES AND FUNDING NECESSARY TO ENSURE**
3 **CONSISTENCY IN SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION; AND**

4 **(7) POLICIES REGARDING SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION**
5 **ARE PART OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND REQUIRE COORDINATION WITH MULTIPLE**
6 **STATE AGENCIES AND VICTIM SERVICES PROVIDERS.**

7 **(C) THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION ARE TO:**

8 **(1) PROVIDE FOR A STATEWIDE SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE KIT**
9 **POLICY AND FUNDING COMMITTEE TO INCREASE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR SEXUAL**
10 **ASSAULT VICTIMS;**

11 **(2) HOLD THE PERPETRATORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ACCOUNTABLE;**

12 **(3) INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE**
13 **COLLECTION EXAMS; AND**

14 **(4) CREATE EFFECTIVE STATEWIDE POLICIES REGARDING THE**
15 **COLLECTION, TESTING, AND RETENTION OF MEDICAL FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN**
16 **SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES.**

17 **(D) (1) THERE IS A MARYLAND SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE KIT POLICY**
18 **AND FUNDING COMMITTEE.**

19 **(2) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

20 **(I) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND,**
21 **APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

22 **1. ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE BUDGET AND**
23 **TAXATION COMMITTEE; AND**

24 **2. ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE JUDICIAL**
25 **PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE;**

26 **(II) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,**
27 **APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

28 **1. ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**
29 **COMMITTEE; AND**

1 1. ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE BOARD OF
2 NURSING WHO HAS EXPERTISE IN FORENSIC NURSING; AND

3 2. ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
4 OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION.

5 (3) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
6 DESIGNEE, IS THE COMMITTEE CHAIR.

7 (4) A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE:

8 (i) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
9 COMMITTEE; BUT

10 (ii) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER
11 THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
12 BUDGET.

13 (5) (i) THE TERM OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE
14 IS 4 YEARS.

15 (ii) THE TERMS OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED
16 AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
17 JUNE 1, 2017.

18 (iii) AT THE END OF A TERM, AN APPOINTED MEMBER
19 CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.

20 (iv) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN
21 SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED
22 AND QUALIFIES.

23 (6) A MAJORITY OF THE AUTHORIZED MEMBERSHIP OF THE
24 COMMITTEE IS A QUORUM.

25 (7) (i) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET QUARTERLY AT THE TIMES
26 AND PLACES THAT THE COMMITTEE DETERMINES.

27 (ii) THE COMMITTEE MAY HOLD ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AT THE
28 CALL OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR OR ANY SIX MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AFTER
29 GIVING PROPER NOTICE IN THE MANNER PROVIDED IN THE RULES OF THE
30 COMMITTEE.

1 **(E) (1) THE COMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE BEST**
2 **PRACTICES INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING:**

3 **(I) THE TESTING AND RETENTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**
4 **EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS;**

5 **(II) COORDINATION BETWEEN STATE AGENCIES, VICTIM**
6 **SERVICES PROVIDERS, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND LOCAL SEXUAL ASSAULT**
7 **RESPONSE TEAMS;**

8 **(III) PAYMENT FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION**
9 **KITS;**

10 **(IV) INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**
11 **EVIDENCE COLLECTION EXAMS FOR ALLEGED VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT;**

12 **(V) REDUCING THE SHORTAGE OF FORENSIC NURSE**
13 **EXAMINERS; AND**

14 **(VI) INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO**
15 **SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS REGARDING:**

16 **1. CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**
17 **CRIMES;**

18 **2. CIVIL LAW REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS OF**
19 **SEXUAL ASSAULT;**

20 **3. SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS; AND**

21 **4. VICTIM RIGHTS.**

22 **(2) THE COMMITTEE MAY ADOPT RULES GOVERNING THE**
23 **ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.**

24 **(F) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMITTEE,**
25 **SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS BASED ON THE COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATIONS**
26 **PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION, TESTING, AND RETENTION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT**
27 **EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS IN THE STATE.**

28 **(G) (1) THE COMMITTEE SHALL EVALUATE STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING**
29 **NEEDS TO DETERMINE WHETHER FUNDING ALLOCATIONS ARE SUFFICIENT AND**
30 **APPROPRIATE TO IMPLEMENT THE BEST PRACTICES DEVELOPED BY THE**

1 COMMITTEE UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION AND THE REGULATIONS
2 ADOPTED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (2) THE COMMITTEE'S EVALUATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
4 INCLUDE CONSIDERATIONS OF WHETHER THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH HOSPITAL
5 PERSONNEL TRAINING AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATIONS
6 MAY BE INCLUDED AS PART OF A HOSPITAL'S REQUIRED COMMUNITY BENEFIT.

7 (H) IN FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND IN EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
8 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE FUNDS IN THE STATE BUDGET TO IMPLEMENT THIS
9 SECTION, INCLUDING FUNDS TO:

10 (1) EMPLOY A FULL-TIME ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL TO:

11 (I) STAFF THE COMMITTEE; AND

12 (II) ASSIST WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS
13 ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

14 (2) OPERATE AND MAINTAIN AN OFFICE.

15 (I) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 ANNUALLY, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019,
16 THE COMMITTEE SHALL REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE
17 PRIOR FISCAL YEAR TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF
18 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial
20 appointed members of the Maryland Sexual Assault Evidence Kit Policy and Funding
21 Committee shall expire as follows:

22 (1) one member in 2020;

23 (2) four members in 2021;

24 (3) four members in 2022; and

25 (4) four members in 2023.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
27 1, 2017.