

# HOUSE BILL 170

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CF 0lr2739

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By: **Delegates Lierman, Boyce, Dumais, Ebersole, R. Lewis, and Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Family Law Services for Sustained Safety Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Family Law Services for Sustained Safety Fund as a  
4 special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the  
5 Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to administer the Fund; requiring  
6 the State Treasurer to hold the Fund and the Comptroller to account for the Fund;  
7 requiring the Governor to include certain funding in the State budget; specifying the  
8 contents of the Fund; specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used;  
9 specifying the manner in which an award from the Fund shall be made; requiring  
10 grantees from the Fund to receive certain training; prohibiting a certain grantee  
11 from requesting that a certain individual waive certain rights for a certain purpose;  
12 providing for the investment of money in and expenditures from the Fund; requiring  
13 interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the General Fund; prohibiting certain  
14 groups from reducing other grant awards based on certain availability of funding  
15 from the Fund; providing for the construction of this Act; defining certain terms; and  
16 generally relating to the Family Law Services for Sustained Safety Fund.

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Criminal Procedure  
19 Section 11–923.1  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

25 **11–923.1.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "ANCILLARY FAMILY LAW SERVICES" MEANS DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES TO A PARTY IN A DIVORCE, CUSTODY, OR GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDING THAT IS PART OF THE PROCEEDING OR IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE PARTY OR THE MINOR CHILD OF THE PARTY, INCLUDING CLAIMS UNDER THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE, CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND CLAIMS, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF A CRIME VICTIM'S RIGHTS.

(3) "CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM" MEANS AN ESTABLISHED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT:

(I) PROVIDES DIRECT SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE;  
AND

(II) DOES NOT ACT AS AN AGENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OR AS AN AGENT OF ANY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

(4) "CORE FAMILY LAW SERVICES" MEANS DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES TO A PARTY IN A DIVORCE, CUSTODY, OR GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDING FILED UNDER TITLE 5, TITLE 7, OR TITLE 9 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE OR ANY LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO A VICTIM OF ELDER ABUSE IN A PROCEEDING, OTHER THAN A PROCEEDING INITIATED BY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

(5) "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM" MEANS A PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 4-515 OF THE FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.

(6) "ELDER ABUSE PROGRAM" MEANS AN ESTABLISHED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT:

(I) PROVIDES DIRECT SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF ELDER ABUSE;  
AND

(II) DOES NOT ACT AS AN AGENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OR AS AN AGENT OF ANY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

(7) "FUND" MEANS THE FAMILY LAW SERVICES FOR SUSTAINED SAFETY FUND.

(8) "LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM" MEANS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION:

(I) FUNDED TO PROVIDE DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES BY THE

1 MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION; AND

2 (II) THAT RECEIVES FUNDS ALLOCATED UNDER THE VICTIMS  
3 OF CRIME ACT OR THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT.

4 (9) "SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM" MEANS A SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS  
5 PROGRAM OR COALITION FUNDED UNDER § 11-923 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

6 (10) (I) "VICTIM" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 11-104 OF THIS  
7 TITLE.

8 (II) "VICTIM" INCLUDES VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT,  
9 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE, AND ELDER ABUSE.

10 (B) THERE IS A FAMILY LAW SERVICES FOR SUSTAINED SAFETY FUND.

11 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO INCREASE LEGAL SERVICES IN  
12 FAMILY LAW CASES FOR VICTIMS IN ORDER TO HELP ENSURE SAFETY AND  
13 LONG-TERM STABILITY AFTER VICTIMIZATION BY CREATING AND SUSTAINING:

14 (1) PROJECTS TO PROVIDE CORE FAMILY LAW SERVICES AND  
15 ANCILLARY FAMILY LAW SERVICES TO VICTIMS THROUGH SEXUAL ASSAULT  
16 PROGRAMS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, CHILD ABUSE PROGRAMS, ELDER  
17 ABUSE PROGRAMS, AND LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS WITH A DEMONSTRATED  
18 HISTORY OF PROVIDING DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS; AND

19 (2) COOPERATIVE PROJECTS BETWEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS,  
20 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS, CHILD ABUSE PROGRAMS, OR ELDER ABUSE  
21 PROGRAMS AND LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS OR MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND BAR  
22 TO PROVIDE CORE FAMILY LAW SERVICES AND ANCILLARY FAMILY LAW SERVICES  
23 TO VICTIMS.

24 (D) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
25 SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

26 (E) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT  
27 SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

28 (2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,  
29 AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

30 (F) IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
31 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
32 FUND IN AN AMOUNT NOT LESS THAN:

1           **(1)   \$500,000 FROM GENERAL FUNDS; AND**

2           **(2)   \$3,000,000 FROM THE FEDERAL FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THE**  
3 **VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT.**

4           **(G)   THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

5           **(1)   MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND; AND**

6           **(2)   ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
7 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

8           **(H)   THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR:**

9           **(1)   CORE FAMILY LAW SERVICES AND ANCILLARY FAMILY LAW**  
10 **SERVICES FOR VICTIMS; AND**

11           **(2)   COSTS RELATED TO PROVIDING CORE FAMILY LAW SERVICES AND**  
12 **ANCILLARY FAMILY LAW SERVICES.**

13           **(I)   EACH AWARD FROM THE FUND TO A LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM,**  
14 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM, SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM, CHILD ABUSE**  
15 **PROGRAM, OR ELDER ABUSE PROGRAM SHALL:**

16           **(1)   INCLUDE AT LEAST 75% OF FUNDS FROM THE VICTIMS OF CRIME**  
17 **ACT FUNDING AND UP TO 25% OF FUNDS FROM GENERAL FUND FUNDING IF**  
18 **REQUESTED BY THE AWARD RECIPIENT AND NECESSARY TO HELP MEET FEDERAL**  
19 **MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENTS;**

20           **(2)   BE AWARDED FOR A 3-YEAR PERIOD; AND**

21           **(3)   BE AWARDED TO ENSURE THAT SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE**  
22 **FUND ARE AVAILABLE IN EVERY JURISDICTION IN THE STATE.**

23           **(J)   EACH GRANTEE FROM THE FUND UNDER THIS SECTION:**

24           **(1)   SHALL RECEIVE TRAINING ON THE EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC**  
25 **VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, CHILD ABUSE, AND ELDER ABUSE;**

26           **(2)   SHALL RECEIVE TRAINING ON PROVIDING SERVICES TO VICTIMS**  
27 **WITH DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND SENSITIVITY; AND**

28           **(3)   MAY NOT REQUEST THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WAIVE ANY RIGHTS**  
29 **PROTECTING       CONFIDENTIAL       OR       PRIVILEGED       ATTORNEY-CLIENT**

1 COMMUNICATIONS AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING SERVICES.

2 (K) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND  
3 IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

4 (2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO  
5 THE GENERAL FUND OF THE STATE.

6 (L) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE  
7 WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

8 (M) (1) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR GRANTS IS  
9 SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO SUPPLANT MONEY THAT A GRANTEE  
10 FROM THE FUND RECEIVES FROM OTHER SOURCES.

11 (2) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND  
12 PREVENTION, THE MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION, OR ANY OTHER  
13 STATE AGENCY MAY NOT REDUCE OTHER FUNDING OR CHOOSE NOT TO FUND  
14 CURRENT OR FUTURE LEGAL SERVICES PROJECTS BASED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF  
15 GRANTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

16 (3) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE  
17 DISCRETION OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION,  
18 THE MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION, OR ANY OTHER STATE AGENCY  
19 TO REDUCE OR MODIFY ANOTHER GRANT AWARD FOR REASONS UNRELATED TO THE  
20 RECEIPT OF A FUND GRANT.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 October 1, 2020.