

**CHAPTER 598**

**(Senate Bill 741)**

AN ACT concerning

**Court Costs – Victims of Crime**

FOR the purpose of requiring a court for a certain fiscal year to impose an additional court cost on certain criminal defendants; requiring that the fees collected be deposited to a certain fund; prohibiting a court from waiving any court costs for a certain fiscal year except under certain circumstances; authorizing the Governor to make certain transfers by budget amendment; and generally relating to the victims of crime and imposition of additional court costs on certain criminal defendants.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 204 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1993, as amended by Chapter 474 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1994 and Chapter 396 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995

Section 20

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

**Chapter 204 of the Acts of 1993, as amended by Chapter 474 of the Acts of 1994 and Chapter 396 of the Acts of 1995**

SECTION 20. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year [1996] 1997, in every case in which a defendant is found guilty, enters a plea of guilt or nolo contendere, or is given probation before judgment for an offense under the Motor Vehicle Law that is punishable by imprisonment or for any other criminal offense, including cases in which the defendant is represented by the Office of Public Defender, the District Court and the circuit courts shall require the defendant to pay an additional court cost of \$5. The court cost imposed under this section shall be in addition to any other court costs imposed in the District Court and the circuit courts. For fiscal year [1996] 1997, the court may not waive any court cost including the court cost imposed under this section unless the defendant establishes indigency as provided in the Maryland Rules. The funds collected under this section shall be remitted to the Comptroller and credited to the [General Fund] MARYLAND VICTIMS OF CRIME FUND.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any moneys credited to the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund from the fee collected under this Act may be transferred by the Governor by budget amendment to the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Program.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1996.

Approved May 23, 1996.