

Signed May 15, 1984.

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No. 28

(House Joint Resolution No. 55)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Task Force on Victims Services

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Governor establish a Task Force on Victims Services; providing for membership, appointment, and staffing of the Task Force; providing that the Task Force report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to establishing a Task Force on Victims Services.

WHEREAS, The Federal Task Force on Victims has made certain recommendations for Victims' Rights and Services to be addressed on the State level; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Task Force on Victims has recommended that existing services provided by the State be evaluated and reviewed; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Task Force has recommended that a survey be conducted to determine the need for additional services within the State; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland acknowledges the need to provide quality services to victims of crimes committed within the State; and

WHEREAS, The State has a moral responsibility to assist victims in recovering from the physical, financial, and emotional setbacks that often result from crimes; and

WHEREAS, Several states have already established similar task forces to address these issues; and

WHEREAS, Such task forces have been effective as sources of information and support essential to providing quality services to victims in other states; and

WHEREAS, There is a pressing need to implement a comprehensive strategy in the State of Maryland to address the recommendations made by the Federal Task Force on Victims; and

WHEREAS, The Task Force could amend any current versions of a Victims' Bill of Rights and present a proposal for 1985 which would eliminate the excessive legislation on the subject proposed each year; now, therefore, be it