

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Governor is requested to appoint a task force to address the federal recommendations and examine the State's current response to problems encountered by victims of crime in the State; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force should examine and report on:

(1)--Legislation-to-ensure-that-addresses--of--victims and--witnesses--are--not--made--public--or--available--to--the--defense; absent-a-clear-need-as-determined-by-the-court;

(2)--Legislation--to--ensure--that--designated--victim counseling--is--legally--privileged--and--not--subject--to--defense discovery--or--subpoena;

(3)--Legislation--to--ensure--that--hearsay--is--admissible and--sufficient--in--preliminary--hearing;--so--that--victims--need--not testify--in--person;

(4)--Legislation--to--open--parole--release--hearings--to victims/or--surviving--family--members;

(5)--Legislation--to--accomplish--or--improve--upon--the following:

(i)--Victim-impact-statements-at-sentencing;

(ii)--Protection-of-victims-and--witnesses--from intimidation;

(iii)--Development---and---implementation---of guidelines-for-the-fair-treatment-of-crime-victims-and-witnesses; and

(iv)--Prohibition-of-a-criminal-from-making--any profit-from-the-sale-of-the-story-of-the-crime;

(6)--Legislation---to--establish--or--expand--employee assistance-programs-for-victims-of-crime-employed-by--government;

(7)--Legislation-to-ensure-that-sexual-assault-victims are--not--required--to--assume--the--cost--of--physical--examinations--and materials--used--to--obtain--evidence relating to victims' and witnesses' rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Task Force shall make recommendations for implementation of more effective and comprehensive responses to the problems encountered by victims of crime in the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Task Force consist of the following 11 members: