

4-514.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) an increasing number of [battered spouses] VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE are forced to leave their homes to ensure their life, safety, and welfare;

(2) [battered spouses] VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and their children often are economically dependent on the [abusing spouse] ABUSER and have no place to live outside the household; and

(3) in the past, these [battered spouses] VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE have been ignored and, therefore, there is a lack of COUNSELING, SERVICE, AND quality emergency public or private housing to provide a place to live for these [battered spouses] VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and their children.

4-515.

(a) (1) The Secretary shall establish a program in the Department of Human Resources to help [battered spouses] VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and their children.

(2) The purpose of the program is to provide for [battered spouses] VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and their children, in each region of this State:

- (i) temporary shelter or help in obtaining shelter;
- (ii) counseling;
- (iii) information;
- (iv) referral; and
- (v) rehabilitation.

(b) As a part of the [battered spouse] DOMESTIC VIOLENCE program, there shall be, in ~~in~~ a major population center, ~~EACH REGION~~ of this State, at least 1 [shelter] PROGRAM serving the area [surrounding the shelter].

(c) Any [shelter] PROGRAM established under this section shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) the [shelter] PROGRAM shall provide [battered spouses] VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and their children with a temporary home and necessary counseling;

(2) the Department of Human Resources shall:

- (i) supervise the [shelter] PROGRAM;
- (ii) set standards of care and admission policies;
- (iii) monitor the operation of the [shelter] PROGRAM and annually evaluate the effectiveness of the [shelter] PROGRAM; and