

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENSE VICTIMS IN THE STATE:

(1) LACK NECESSARY COUNSELING AND FOLLOW-UP SERVICES; AND

(2) IN SOME PARTS OF THE STATE, HAVE ONLY THE HELP OF EXTREMELY LIMITED SUPPORT SERVICES.

(B) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO PROVIDE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS.

(C) DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO HELP ESTABLISH PROGRAM.

(1) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL HELP ESTABLISH SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.

(2) THE PROGRAMS SHALL BE DEVELOPED AND LOCATED TO FACILITATE THEIR USE BY ALLEGED VICTIMS RESIDING IN SURROUNDING AREAS.

(3) THE PROGRAMS SHALL:

(I) PROVIDE SPECIALIZED SUPPORT SERVICES TO ADULT AND MINOR ALLEGED VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CRIMES; AND

(II) INCLUDE A HOTLINE AND COUNSELING SERVICE.

(D) PROGRAM CONTRACTS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES MAY CONTRACT WITH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO OPERATE THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAMS.

(E) FUNDING.

MONEY FOR THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAMS SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET AND SHALL BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT, BUT NOT SUPPLANT, MONEY THAT THE PROGRAMS RECEIVE FROM OTHER SOURCES.

(F) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL INCLUDE A REPORT ON THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS PROGRAMS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former Art. 27, § 793.

In subsection (f) of this section, the references to the Secretary "of Human Resources" and "the Department of Human Resources" annual report are added for clarity.

Defined term: "Sexual assault" § 11-922