



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 582**

*February Session, 2004*

Substitute House Bill No. 5296

*House of Representatives, April 14, 2004*

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. STILLMAN of the 38th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING A SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS ACCOUNT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) There is established a sexual  
2 assault victims account which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account  
3 within the General Fund. The account shall contain the moneys  
4 authorized pursuant to section 2 of this act, and any other moneys  
5 required by law to be deposited in the account, and shall be held in  
6 trust separate and apart from all other moneys, funds and accounts.  
7 Any balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall  
8 be carried forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding.  
9 Investment earnings credited to the account shall become part of the  
10 account. Amounts in the account shall be expended only pursuant to  
11 appropriations by the General Assembly, for the fiscal year ending  
12 June 30, 2006, and each fiscal year thereafter, for the purpose of  
13 providing funds to the Department of Public Health for sexual assault  
14 crisis services furnished to victims of sexual assault in this state,



The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Sexual Assault Victim Account	GF - Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill establishes a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund, "Sexual Assault Victim Account," to be accessed by the Department of Public Health to furnish sexual assault crisis services to victims of sexual assault in this state. Under the bill, the account would be funded by revenue from a new criminal fine and any related investment earnings.

The bill creates a new \$151 fine on any person who pleads guilty or is convicted of certain sexual criminal offenses. There were 272 convictions and 747 pleas under the bill's applicable statutes in FY 03. Since financial penalties are typically waived pursuant to a plea agreement, no revenue is anticipated from them. It is estimated that at least twenty of those 272 individuals who are convicted would be found by the court to be indigent, and therefore not assessed the bill's fee. Annual revenue resulting from the bill's fine is anticipated to be minimal (i.e., less than \$50,000 annually). Investment earnings credited to the account are therefore expected to be negligible.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5296

**AN ACT CONCERNING A SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS ACCOUNT****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a separate, nonlapsing sexual assault victim account in the General Fund. Beginning July 1, 2005, money in the account, including investment earnings, must be provided annually to the Department of Public Health in legislatively determined amounts to fund crisis services that are available to the state's sexual assault victims. Account funds cannot substitute for federal or state funds available for this purpose.

The account is funded with a new \$151 fine on anyone convicted of, or who pleads guilty or no contest to, risk of injury to a minor or a sexual assault crime and any other moneys required by law to be deposited in it. The current penalties for these crimes range from up to one-year imprisonment, up to a \$2,000 fine, or both to up to 25 years imprisonment, up to a \$20,000 fine, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 42 Nay 0

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 2