HOUSE BILL NO. 296 Offered January 11, 1996

A BILL to amend and reenact § 9-173.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to availability of funds for local victim and witness assistance programs.

Patron—Davies (By Request)

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 9-173.3 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 9-173.3. Establishment of programs; purpose; rules and regulations.

A. The Department of Criminal Justice Services shall promulgate rules and regulations, the purpose of which shall be to make funds available to local governments, *including sheriffs' offices and offices of attorneys for the Commonwealth*, for establishing, operating and maintaining victim and witness assistance programs which provide services to the victims of crime and witnesses in the criminal justice system.

B. The Department of Criminal Justice Services shall establish a grant procedure to govern funds awarded for this purpose.