

2017 SESSION

INTRODUCED

17102141D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1896

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 10, 2017

A BILL to amend and reenact § 9.1-104 of the Code of Virginia, relating to staff of victim and witness assistance programs.

Patron—Freitas

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 9.1-104 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 9.1-104. Establishment of victim and witness assistance programs; purpose; guidelines.

A. The Department shall adopt guidelines, the purpose of which shall be to make funds available to local governments for establishing, operating, and maintaining victim and witness assistance programs ~~which~~ that provide services to the victims of crime and witnesses in the criminal justice system. *Such guidelines shall include provisions requiring that local victim witness assistance staff shall be considered employees of the locality within which the program is established and that no elected official shall have authority to appoint or remove such staff.*

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

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