

HOUSE BILL 744

By Curcio

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8;
Title 29, Chapter 13 and Title 40, relative to victim
services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following section:

(a) In order to provide dedicated, accessible, safe, and secure space for victims to meet with attorneys, law enforcement, counselors, and others, there is established within the district attorneys general conference a grant program to award grants to county governments for the purpose of assisting with creation of such space.

(b) A county may receive a one-time grant of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the creation of suitable space for victims consistent with the purposes of this section, § 40-38-102, and Article I, § 35 of the Constitution of Tennessee. A county shall contribute, as a matching requirement, at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the grant amount requested. The district attorneys general conference, in consultation with the comptroller of the treasury, shall develop an application form enabling counties to request a grant and detail the county's local matching contribution. The district attorney general of the applicable judicial district for the county shall forward grant applications to the district attorneys general conference.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-24-107, is amended by adding the following subsection:

(e) Effective January 1, 2022, an aggregate amount not to exceed two percent (2%) of the total balance of the criminal injuries compensation fund may be used for

grants to county governments to establish meeting space for victims adjacent or in close proximity to locations where judicial proceedings are held, pursuant to Section 1 of this act. The treasurer, upon receipt of qualifying applications from the district attorneys general conference after consultation with the comptroller of the treasury and the county technical assistance service, shall transfer necessary funds from the fund balance in the criminal injuries compensation fund to enable payments to qualifying counties.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.