

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2017-090

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY STUDY A PROPOSED
4 CREATION OF A NEW PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ASSIST WITNESSES AND
5 VICTIMS OF CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES IN RELOCATING TO ANOTHER
6 PLACE OF RESIDENCE.
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8 WHEREAS, oftentimes a victim of or witness to a criminal offense is a
9 resident of the same neighborhood, town, or city of the perpetrator of that
10 criminal offense; and
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12 WHEREAS, because of this proximity, it is at least uncomfortable, if
13 not potentially dangerous for the victim of a criminal offense who may also
14 be required to testify against the perpetrator of the offense, to find
15 himself or herself the neighbor of the perpetrator after the conclusion of
16 the criminal trial or at the completion of the offender's incarceration; and
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18 WHEREAS, it is expensive, time consuming, and emotionally taxing to
19 relocate to a new residence; however, it would be necessary for a victim to
20 remove himself or herself from a potentially dangerous, if not life-
21 threatening, proximity to a perpetrator of the criminal offense that made
22 that person the victim in the first place; and
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24 WHEREAS, the House Committee on Judiciary should study the possibility
25 of creating a state-funded program designed to help alleviate the costs of
26 relocating a crime victim or witness to another neighborhood, town, or city
27 in order to create that physical distance between the victim or witness and
28 the criminal offender; and
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30 WHEREAS, the study should encompass actual costs of relocation, the
31 anticipated frequency that such a program would be used, and by whom, as well
32 as the ability of the program to also address helping the victim or witness
33 gain employment at his or her new place of residence; and
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35 WHEREAS, lastly, the study should determine which state agency would be
36 best suited to administer the victim or witness relocation program,

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NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY OF THE NINETY-FIRST
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on Judiciary study a proposed creation of a
program designed to assist witnesses and victims of certain criminal offenses
in relocating to another place of residence.

BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT the Senate Committee on Judiciary be
invited to participate in the study.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Clarke Tucker
District 35

Representative Warwick Sabin
District 33

Representative Andy Davis
District 31

Representative Charles Blake
District 36

Senator Will Bond
District 32

1 Senator David J. Sanders

2 District 15

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5 Senator Joyce Elliott

6 District 31

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9 By: BPG/BPG

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