

HB 2224 -- WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Richey

This bill creates the "Pretrial Witness Protection Services Fund". This bill authorizes the Department of Public Safety to disburse money from the Pretrial Witness Protection Services Fund to law enforcement agencies for the purposes of providing for the security of witnesses, potential witnesses, and their immediate families in criminal proceedings or investigations. Funds will be subject to appropriations from the General Assembly.

The law enforcement agencies must submit an application to the Department of Public Safety, which shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- (1) A statement of conditions that qualify persons for protection;
- (2) Precise methods the agency will use to provide protection; and
- (3) A statement of projected costs over a specified period of time.

Provisions of this bill shall terminate on December 31, 2021.

This bill is the same as HB 2207 (2020) and similar to SB 857 (2020).