

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2007

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2007

SENATE BILL

No. 594

Introduced by Senator Romero

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Dymally and Huffman)

February 22, 2007

An act to amend Sections ~~14020, 14024, and 14032~~ *14020 and 14024* of the Penal Code, relating to witnesses, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 594, as amended, Romero. Witness Relocation and Assistance Program.

Existing law establishes the Witness Protection Program, and authorizes the Attorney General to reimburse state and local agencies for the provision of specified services to witnesses.

This bill would rename that program the Witness Relocation and Assistance Program, and would include support, advocacy, and other services for witnesses' safe, long-term well-being and transition into a new environment as part of the services to be reimbursed.

~~Existing law limits the costs of the Attorney General in administering this program to 5%.~~

~~This bill would increase that limit to 8%.~~

Existing law specifies that funding for the program will be appropriated in the annual Budget Act.

This bill would appropriate \$6,000,000 to the Attorney General for administration of the program.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 14020 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

14020. There is hereby established the Witness Relocation and Assistance Program.

SEC. 2. Section 14024 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

14024. The Attorney General shall coordinate the efforts of state and local agencies to secure witness protection, relocation, and assistance services and then reimburse those state and local agencies for the costs of the services that he or she determines to be necessary to protect a witness from bodily injury, assure the witness's safe and long-term well-being and transition into a new environment, and otherwise to assure the health, safety, and welfare of the witness. The Attorney General may reimburse the state or local agencies that provide witnesses with any of the following:

(a) Armed protection or escort by law enforcement officials or security personnel before, during, or subsequent to, legal proceedings.

(b) Physical relocation to an alternate residence.

(c) Housing expense.

(d) Appropriate documents to establish a new identity.

(e) Transportation or storage of personal possessions.

(f) Basic living expenses, including, but not limited to, food, transportation, utility costs, and health care.

(g) Support, advocacy, and other services to provide for witnesses' safe and long-term well-being and transition into a new environment.

(h) Other services as needed and approved by the Attorney General.

~~SEC. 3. Section 14032 of the Penal Code is amended to read:~~

~~14032. The administrative costs of the Attorney General for the purposes of administering this title shall be limited to 8 percent of all costs incurred pursuant to this title.~~

~~SEC. 4.~~

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding Section 14033 of the Penal Code, the sum of six million dollars (\$6,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Attorney General for the purposes of administering the Witness Relocation and Assistance Program

- 1 in Title 7.5 (commencing with Section 14020) of Part 4 of the
- 2 Penal Code.

O