

Section 6 establishes the role of application assistants, requires the Secretary of State to establish a training program for application assistants, and requires application assistants to become recertified every three years after completing an initial training program. Application assistants exist to explain the Safe at Home Program to applicants, assist them in formulating a general safety plan, and direct them to additional support services.

SB 79 GA would likely have minimal, if any, fiscal impact on local governments. As the Safe at Home Program already exists as the broadly similar crime victims' address protection program, the bill would not place a substantially greater administrative burden on local governments to recognize designated addresses. However, the bill expands eligibility for the program by adding an eligible offense (human trafficking), allowing anybody who resides with a victim to be eligible, and relaxing criteria which make an applicant eligible. This would likely result in more applicants but the program is run through the Secretary of State's office, not through any local government, so the impact, if any, would likely be small.

The bill's provisions on application assistants may have a slight effect on local governments' administrative capacities. The bill states that application assistants may be employees or volunteers of a government agency, though they may also be private individuals or employees or volunteers of a nonprofit organization. However, if an employee of a local government agency decides to be an application assistant, their labor as such may divert the capacities of their employer, which could result in costs in the form of overtime for employees who must cover for them. However, this effect would likely be small and the bill does not require that employers allow an employee to be an application assistant, if it diverts from their workplace responsibilities.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II refers to SB 79 GA. The GA version of the SB 79 is the same as the bill introduced. SB 79 passed its chamber of origin without amendments or substitutes.

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