

1023

FISCAL NOTE (Form 2)
(Office of Fiscal Analysis)
Analyst: AC 4/23/92
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Version:

BILL NUMBER: SHB 5688
FILE NUMBER:
AMENDMENTS:

TITLE: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON VICTIM SERVICES"

FAVORABLY REPORTED BY Judiciary, Appropriations

SUMMARY: The bill reorganizes the Commission on Victim Services into two divisions: crime victims compensation and victims services. The reorganization includes the creation of two deputy directors, one at the head of each division, and an executive director who would oversee the entire agency. The bill provides for an increase in the number of commissioners from three to five and the elimination of compensation to the commissioners except for actual expenses and when serving on the Appeals Panel. In addition, the agency would be required to submit its annual budget to the Appropriations Committee for review, potential modification and oversight.

The bill also requires the Commission to provide, no later than April 1, 1993, for the notification of victims of family violence crimes of any modification or termination of criminal orders of protection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/92

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5688

STATE IMPACT	Potential Cost and Savings (Non-General Fund), see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Commission on Victim Services, Judicial Department

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: The passage of the bill would result in a potential cost and savings to the Commission on Victim Services' Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. The bill requires the creation of three administrative positions, (an executive director and two deputy directors) but does not include the specific salaries or specify if there would be reshuffling of existing staff. The potential cost, therefore, is uncertain.

The bill would also achieve savings to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) by eliminating payments from the fund for the encouragement of volunteer activities and for services to victims. Savings, in the amount of \$2,000 - \$3,000 would result by eliminating the compensation for volunteer interns.

In addition, estimated savings, in the amount of \$773,000, would be achieved by eliminating use of the CICF for services to victims. This level of savings includes \$470,000 for the salaries of ten victim advocates and two victim advocate supervisors, associated fringe benefits of \$210,000, mileage reimbursements of \$8,000 and \$85,000 in service provider contracts. It should be noted that SHB 5100 (the Appropriations Act, as favorably reported from the Appropriations Committee) for SFY 1992-93 does not contain any General Funds for the agency.

Under the bill, the Commission is required to notify victims of changes or terminations in restraining orders. Since the agency already notifies victims of an inmate's release from prison or appearance at a parole hearing, the additional resources needed to modify the agency's computers and necessary postage and supplies is anticipated to be minimal. This requirement is also expected to result in a cost to the Judicial Department which would be required to report changes in restraining orders to the Commission. As the Judicial Department does not currently have this information readily available, cost would be incurred for resources related to substantial programming changes to the Department's computer system. The extent of the cost cannot be determined at this time.

The passage of the bill would also result in a savings to the agency since it eliminates the \$100 per diem for commissioners' services except when serving on the Appeals Panel. However, the bill also increases the number of commissioners who, according to statute, are still eligible to receive reimbursement for actual expenses. The net savings associated with these changes is estimated to range from \$25,000-\$30,000 in SFY 1992-93.

The bill also deletes a \$100 deductible from victims compensation awards. Based upon a current average of 70 claims awarded per month, a cost to the agency of \$84,000 on an annual basis would be incurred.