

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Beyer, Kruse, Prozanski, Walker, Burdick
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Miranda Plummer, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Reauthorizes the Sexual Assault Victims' Emergency (SAVE) Medical Response Fund by repealing the January 1, 2008 sunset date. Extends time for the Attorney General to report to the Legislative Assembly on the operation of the SAVE Fund to January 31, 2009. Declares an emergency, making the bill effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- House committee opposition
- Amount of payment coming from insurance companies
- Importance of private donations
- Existence of previous Attorney General report on SAVE fund

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The SAVE Fund was established to pay for medical assessments for sexual assault victims. Victims receive medical assessments and forensic evidence regardless of their ability to pay. Since its inception, the Department of Justice reports that approximately \$81,000 has been donated to the SAVE Fund from private citizens, hospitals, and insurance companies, and that from March 2004 through December 2006, 1,315 sexual assault victims have received benefits offered by the SAVE Fund.

Currently, the SAVE Fund is to sunset on January 1, 2008. Additionally, the unused balance in the SAVE Fund would transfer to the General Fund, which is separate and distinct from SAVE. Deleting the sunset provision also cancels this prospective transfer of funds.