

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Stiegler, Whisnant
Prepared By:	Shannon Sivell, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	4/29, 5/4, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases eligibility and award amounts for crime victims' compensation. Increases claim period for homicide from three to five years. Adds benefit for victims whose offenders are in appellate process and parole board hearings. Removes prohibition on compensation for those living with or related to perpetrator.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes language relating to attending an execution.

BACKGROUND: Compensation currently available for victims of serious crimes may not be adequate for victims to participate in the criminal process or be able to get guidance and counseling. For example, benefits in a homicide case may run out before the criminal trial has begun. SB 218A increases the time frame for benefits from three years to five years. In addition, SB 218A increases money for travel expenses and counseling for victims to participate in parole board hearings. Lastly, SB 218A removes the prohibition on compensation for family member victims that was part of the original language in the 1970s.