

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, Whitsett, Prozanski
Nays: 0
Exc.: Dingfelder
Prepared By: Anna Braun, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 2/04, 3/03

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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 the guidance and counseling they need. For example, benefits in a homicide case may run out before the criminal trial has begun. SB 218 increases the time frame for benefits from three years to five years. In addition, SB 218 increases money for travel expenses and counseling for victims to participate in parole board hearings. Lastly, SB 218 removed the prohibition on compensation for family member victims that was part of the original language in the 1970s.