

HB 2621 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies Crime Victims' Compensation Program administered by Department of Justice (DOJ). Increases maximum amount of compensable loss of victim's earnings or support from \$400 to \$600 per week. Includes as compensable expense cost of forensic interview related to child abuse and certain prescription medications prescribed in conjunction with counseling. Directs DOJ to establish limited compensation award for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, who do not meet eligibility requirements for full compensation award. Eliminates requirement for compensation award that victim cooperate "fully" with law enforcement officials and eliminates assessment of whether victim engaged in "substantial provocation" of assailant. Authorizes compensation award when DOJ finds good cause for victim's failure to timely notify law enforcement of crime. Establishes specified actions, including obtaining protective order, constituting notification to law enforcement. Authorizes DOJ to extend 30-day period for reconsideration of compensation order, with victim's consent. Authorizes DOJ to obtain police reports and child abuse reports for purposes of crime victims compensation program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 147.005 to 147.367 describe the Crime Victims Compensation Program administered by the Department of Justice. Under the program, victims of crime, their dependents or survivors and persons who have borne certain expenses, are eligible for an award of compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Account. These expenses can include medical and counseling expenses, funeral expenses and loss of earnings.