

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2676 - B

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Modifies Department of Justice crime victim compensation program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Psychiatric Security Review Board, Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, Department of Justice, Oregon Health and Science University, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

The measure modifies the crime victim compensation program within the Department of Justice (DOJ) to now include cleaning expenses up to a maximum of \$2,500, increases loss of support to the dependents of the victim from \$600 to \$800 per week, expands persons eligible to receive counseling compensation, and increases the cost of prescription medications from \$1,500 per survivor to any cost, allow for the recovery of lost wages due to providing care for the victim, provides for costs of obtaining forensic evidence, allows for additional funeral expenses at the discretion of DOJ, and increases victim's, survivor's, or dependent's counseling expenses from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The measure also modifies the transportation and lodging compensation related to hearings from \$3,000 to an amount determined by DOJ and any other additional expenses deemed to be necessary. The measure expands the definition of survivor to include a person to whom was engaged to be married to the victim when the compensable crime occurred and the definition of law enforcement official to include police officers commissioned by a university under ORS 352.121 or ORS 353.125.

Under current law, DOJ refuses applicants from incarcerated persons, but are eligible to refile within six months after release. However, this measure requires DOJ to process incarcerated persons applicants in normal course and keep the case open until released from custody when they become eligible for compensation.

The DOJ reports there will be a minimal fiscal impact for this measure and that a federal grant from the Office of Victims of Crime that will assist in covering the additional costs; however, DOJ was unable to quantify the budgetary impact of the changes in benefits from this measure.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that in addition to the federal grant identified by DOJ, funding of compensation for victims of crime includes General Fund, Criminal Fines Account, punitive damage awards, and moneys received from restitution/subrogation. Since the measure makes no provision for additional funding, the expansion of benefits will need to be absorbed by DOJ within existing resources.

There is no fiscal impact for the Psychiatric Security Review Board, Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and Oregon Health and Science University.