

## **Crime Victims Compensation; HB 2781**

**HB 2781** amends law regarding compensation from the Crime Victims Compensation Board (Board) to be awarded to victims of certain criminal conduct. The bill also increases the amount that can be transferred from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund (CVCF) to the Crime Victims Assistance Fund (CVAF) each fiscal year.

### ***Victim Compensation***

The bill expands compensation beyond mental health counseling for certain crime victims by removing a set of requirements concerning compensation for mental health counseling. Additionally, the bill allows the Board to award compensation when the Board determines failing to compensate the victim would be a severe injustice.

The bill revises the compensation award process by allowing the Board to consider the totality of the circumstances based on five factors in continuing law and, the bill adds, consider other factors as deemed appropriate by the Board in making their determination.

The bill increases the maximum weekly compensation from \$400 to \$800. The bill adds compensation for work loss for a victim of human trafficking or aggravated human trafficking in an amount not less than \$350 per week and not more than \$800 per week.

### ***Reporting Criminally Injurious Conduct***

The bill allows compensation claims to be awarded if the victim obtains a forensic medical examination within seven days of the occurrence of criminally injurious conduct. The bill authorizes the Board to award compensation if it finds there was good cause for failure to obtain an examination within that time limit.

Under continuing law, persons under the age of 16 who were the victims of certain sexual or human trafficking crimes must file an application for compensation within 2 years of reporting the incident to law enforcement. For persons who are victims of certain sexually violent crimes, the bill establishes various application deadlines of within either two years or ten years of a specific event.

The bill changes the reporting requirement for claims by persons for any other criminally injurious conduct to require application within five years of the injury or death upon which the claim is based. In instances where more than one deadline would apply to a victim (such as a victim of a sexually violent crime), the bill allows the victim to file by the longest time limitation that applies.

### ***Increased Transfer to the Crime Victims Assistance Fund***

The bill increases the authorized transfer amount from the CVCF to the CVAF from \$300,000 to \$500,000 each fiscal year.