

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6742

As of February 1, 2000

Title: An act relating to the rights of victims of juvenile offenders.

Brief Description: Providing for additional consideration of victims in the juvenile justice system.

Sponsors: Senators Costa, Hargrove, Long, Winsley and Patterson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services & Corrections: 2/1/2000.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

Staff: Jennifer Strus (786-7484)

Background: Victims of crimes should have the same rights in juvenile offender cases as they do in adult criminal cases.

Summary of Bill: The intent of the Juvenile Justice Act (RCW 13.40) is amended to include language that each victim of an offense committed by a juvenile shall be made whole to the fullest extent possible. The prosecuting attorney who decides whether to file an information or divert a juvenile must notify the victim as to which decision was made. If a decision is made not to prosecute a juvenile, the victim must be notified within five days of reaching the decision of other procedures available to the victim for initiating criminal proceedings.

In a crime against a person, the prosecuting attorney must make reasonable efforts to inform the victim of any plea agreement and collect any comments the victim has to the plea agreement.

Any restitution contained in a diversion agreement must be for the actual loss suffered by the victim.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.