

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5993

C 10 L 05

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Providing additional funding for crime victims' compensation.

Sponsors: Senators Prentice, Doumit, Zarelli, Rasmussen and Kohl-Welles; by request of Office of Financial Management.

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background: The Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) program is administered by the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I). Victims of violent crime are provided with financial assistance under specific eligibility requirements. The program, as the payer of last resort, covers medical and mental health treatment costs, funeral expenses, limited time loss compensation, permanent partial disability awards, and limited pensions. Additionally, it covers the complete cost of sexual assault forensic exams performed by hospitals and emergency medical facilities within Washington State. The program is funded through the Public Safety and Education Account (PSEA) and a federal grant from the Department of Justice. It received an appropriation of \$30.8 million dollars in the 03-05 biennium.

Medical claims for the program have exceeded the forecasted amounts. Prior to September 2004, medical claims were reimbursed at workers' compensation rates. In September 2004, the CVC program reduced reimbursement rates to DSHS/Medicaid rates for medical treatment and sexual assault forensic exams. In-patient hospitalization reimbursement rates were reduced to General Assistance Unemployable. However, despite the reductions, the CVC program forecasts exceeding its 03-05 biennial appropriation by the end of March 2005.

Summary: \$3,627,000 is appropriated from the state General Fund to the PSEA. This amount is appropriated from the PSEA to the L&I for purposes of the CVC program.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	0
House	86	0

Effective: March 28, 2005