

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1501

As of March 9, 2023

Title: An act relating to authorizing additional counseling services for immediate family members of homicide victims.

Brief Description: Authorizing additional counseling services for immediate family members of homicide victims.

Sponsors: House Committee on Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry (originally sponsored by Representatives Steele, Caldier, Santos, Leavitt, Schmidt, Eslick, Orwall, Reeves and Graham).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/28/23, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Human Services: 3/13/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows the Crime Victims Compensation Program to provide more than 12 counseling sessions to immediate family members of a homicide victim, under certain circumstances.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Staff: Kelsey-anne Fung (786-7479)

Background: Crime Victims Compensation Program. The Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) administers the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP), which was created in 1989 to help victims with the many costs associated with violent crime. CVCP provides financial compensation to eligible crime victims for expenses such as medical or dental costs, lost wages, medication coverage, mental health treatment, grief counseling, and funeral expenses.

Immediate family members of a homicide victim may receive appropriate counseling to

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assist in dealing with the immediate, near-term consequences of the related effects of homicide. A person may receive up to 12 counseling sessions after their claim has been allowed. Fees for counseling must be determined by L&I, and payment of counseling benefits are prohibited for the perpetrator of the homicide.

Summary of Bill: Immediate family members of a homicide victim may receive more than 12 counseling sessions from CVCP if a licensed mental health provider determines that:

- additional sessions are needed as a direct result of the near-term consequences of the related effects of the homicide; and
- the recipient of the counseling would benefit from additional sessions.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

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