

HCS SCS SB 338 -- CRIME VICTIMS

SPONSOR: Rupp (Lipke)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Crime Prevention by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding crime victims. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Requires a photograph to be taken of an incarcerated individual prior to release and made available to the victim upon his or her request;

(2) Transfers the administration of the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund from the Division of Workers' Compensation within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Public Safety;

(3) Requires the Department of Public Safety to ensure that compensation paid to victims is reasonable and consistent with state law and any medical expense claims are for expenses that are medically necessary;

(4) Allows a victim to be represented by counsel or a representative designated by the victim instead of appearing in person during an offender's parole and probation revocation hearing; and

(5) Specifies that, subject to appropriations, the State Highway Patrol must develop and make available to appropriate medical providers evidentiary collection kits. The kits will be used by the provider to perform forensic examinations for the purpose of gathering evidence of a sexual offense. The Department of Public Safety must make payments to the providers to cover the charges of the forensic examination if the victim or the victim's guardian consents in writing to the examination and the report of the examination is made on a form approved by the Attorney General with the advice of the department. The payments may be made from money appropriated to the department or the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund if the victim is an eligible claimant.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill transfers the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund from the Division of Workers' Compensation to the Department of Public Safety and ensures that medical providers are not charging too much to complete evidentiary collection rape kits.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Rupp; Department of Public Safety; and Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.