

## Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1H1

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Comstock

3. **Committee:** House Appropriations

4. **Title:** Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

5. **Summary:** The substitute creates a joint subcommittee of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees to study the funding and administration of sexual assault and domestic violence services in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The subcommittee may make a comprehensive recommendation, including the possible administration of sexual assault and domestic violence services at the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. The report is due December 1, 2014.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item #8)

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The substitute provides for a comprehensive study to be completed by December 1, 2014 to determine, among other things, any necessary funding and programmatic changes in the area of sexual assault and domestic violence services. The Departments of Social Services, Health, and Criminal Justice Services would be required to provide the subcommittee with sexual assault and domestic violence data that will be used in the study. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) representatives and local representatives from the sexual and domestic violence coalition are also requested to provide the joint subcommittee with relevant data on trends, emerging areas and other data. It is not anticipated that this study would have a material fiscal impact.

Additionally, the proposed legislation increases the emergency award maximum to \$3,000, from the current amount of \$2,000. According to the Workers Compensation Commission (WCC), this proposed change is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on the Crime Victim Compensation Program that pays these awards.

The proposed legislation also raises the maximum victim award to \$30,000, up from the current \$25,000 maximum. WCC anticipates that this award would have a fiscal impact of \$850,000 to \$1,130,000 annually in benefit payments to victims. This anticipated increase, coupled with an expected 10 percent increase in claims resulting from the program's planned statewide media campaign, would likely result in overall program expenditures exceeding the

anticipated revenue from established state sources. If this occurs, the Crime Victim Compensation Program will have to rely on federal grant funds, transfers from the Judicial Branch and depleting agency fund balance to remain solvent.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Health, Department of Social Services, Department of Criminal Justice Services, Workers Compensation Commission, Office of the Attorney General, Virginia Commonwealths' Attorneys Association, Department of Planning and Budget, local sexual assault, domestic violence and victim/witness programs

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** Consideration should be given to allow the joint subcommittee to gather relevant data from other appropriate state agencies not specifically mentioned in the proposed legislation.

RMT