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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rep. Trujillo, CH/ **ORIGINAL DATE** 1/24/2019
 Sen. Lopez **LAST UPDATED** **HB** 60
SHORT TITLE Crime Fund for Human Trafficking Victims **SB** _____
ANALYST Edwards

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$145.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 60 makes a \$145 thousand appropriation to the Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC) to fund services for victims of human trafficking.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$145 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

If all bills currently introduced, this bill included, were to pass, the CVRC budget would increase an additional \$3.9 million, or 67 percent, over the current FY20 operating budget general fund level.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CVRC received an appropriation of \$125 thousand in FY16 in House Bill 2 for “support, advocacy and services for victims” with specific language for human trafficking victims but this language was vetoed. Despite this, CVRC agreed to assist victims of human trafficking along

with domestic violence and sexual assault victims, as was proposed in the subsequent legislative session for FY17. In FY17 the funds were nonreverting in order to expended this appropriation FY16 and FY17. CVRC has expended approximately \$375 thousand of state general funds to date and assisted over 100 victims of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

CVRC treats these allocations as crisis stabilization funding and has assisted these specific victims with immediate needs as result victimization. CVRC continues to encourage all victims of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence to report to law enforcement, thereby making them eligible for additional compensation up to \$20 thousand per incident.

CVRC is required to solicit non-profit agencies willing to administer this funding through a request for proposal process. Once an agency is selected to administer these funds, extensive training is required and all financial reimbursement requests have to be approved by CVRC to ensure consistency and accountability.

CVRC explains the agency has been successful in facilitating prior year funds to provide crisis stabilization to victims of sex and labor trafficking. Funds have been used to provide victims with basic necessities, such as food, temporary shelter, and clothing. Due to the small appropriation CVRC will encourage agencies and services providers to submit a compensation application in order to access additional funding for victim needs.

CVRC also explains “the majority of these victims access this funding from non-profits victim service providers who are cooperating and reporting to law enforcement, making them potentially eligible for standard compensation. To date, of the victims who have accessed these funds, only two did not report to law enforcement, making them ineligible for standard compensation but eligible under these state funds.”

In order to address the needs of human trafficking victims, CVRC created a specialized procedure to access and administer this type of funding. Service providers who assist human trafficking victims are concerned that the majority of this funding will be utilized primarily by sexual assault and domestic violence victims, leaving victims of human trafficking underserved.

TE/sb