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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Armstrong, D. ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 101
SHORT TITLE Services for Human Trafficking Victims SB _____
ANALYST Rabin

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$350.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Senate Bill 66

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 101 appropriates \$350 thousand from the general fund to CVRC for the purpose of funding services for victims of human trafficking.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$350 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

The 2018 General Appropriation Act included \$145 thousand in a nonrecurring special appropriation for services for victims of human trafficking, which CVRC used to contract with two non-profit organizations that provide statewide crisis stabilization as well as immigration services for victims of human trafficking. Laws 2019, Chapters 278 (Senate Bill 536) and 279

(House Bill 548) included \$150 thousand in recurring appropriations for victims of human trafficking, which CVRC directed to the same organizations in FY20.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CVRC reports it has been successful in distributing prior appropriations to provide crisis stabilization to victims of sex and labor trafficking. These funds have been able to provide these victims with basic necessities, such as food, temporary shelter, and clothing. CVRC reports that safe housing is the most significant safety need for human trafficking survivors, and states it would encourage agencies that have the capacity to use these increased funds to support barrier-free transitional housing.

Many human trafficking victims are also eligible for victim compensation payments through CVRC. According to the agency, the majority of human trafficking victims accessing funding or services from non-profit victim service providers are cooperating and reporting to law enforcement, which has made them eligible for these reparations in the past. Recent legislation broadened eligibility for all reparations from CVRC and no longer requires victims to report to or cooperate with law enforcement, meaning the agency can now provide victim compensation payments to human trafficking victims who report to medical or mental health providers, victim counselors, or other counseling providers.

CVRC adds that victims of human trafficking are a marginalized and hidden population that is underserved and, due to the nature of their victimization, are often reluctant to seek services. Access to crisis stabilization funding allows service providers to engage with human trafficking victims in innovative ways, which have helped these victims move towards stability and from victim to survivor.

CVRC's usual method of payment is reimbursement to victims for expenses they have incurred as a result of their victimization. In working with service providers, the agency reports it learned that accessing these funds immediately is necessary for services such as relocation, rental assistance, transportation, medical and dental services, and counseling.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

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

RELATIONSHIP

HB101 relates to Senate Bill 66, which appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to CVRC for the purpose of funding services for victims of human trafficking who are minors.