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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/14

SPONSOR Gallegos, DY **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 235

SHORT TITLE Child Crimes Victims Advocacy Fund **SB** _____

ANALYST Jorgensen

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15	FY16		
NFI	\$222.0	\$222.0	Recurring	Child Crime Victims

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
 Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 235 creates a new fund, the Child Crime Victims Advocacy Fund. This fund is funded by a new court fee of \$2 which is collected in district, metropolitan and magistrate courts on convictions of penalty assessment misdemeanors, traffic violations, petty misdemeanors, misdemeanors and felony offenses. The money collected in the fund will be appropriated to the administrative office of the district attorneys to provide funds to child crime victims advocacy programs to defray the cost of providing treatment or intervention to child crime victims. This is a non-reverting fund.

This fund will be used to defray the costs for safe houses, child forensic interviews, and children’s advocates for child victims of crimes and the use of multidisciplinary teams including forensic interviewers, law enforcement, child protective services, mental health services, medical professionals and victim advocacy services. The revenue generated will be used to increase the services provided to children who have been victims of crime.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The approximate revenue listed above is based on a similar fee, the domestic violence treatment fee, which is also assessed and collected on the same convictions as listed in HB 235.

This bill creates a new fund and provides for continuing appropriations. The LFC has concerns with including continuing appropriation language in the statutory provisions for newly created funds, as earmarking reduces the ability of the legislature to establish spending priorities.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The AODA stated that there may be administrative costs associated with enactment of this legislation but did not quantify those costs.

CJ/jl