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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo, CH ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/18  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 53

SHORT TITLE Services for Victims of Human Trafficking SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Edwards

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19		
\$0	\$145.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 89.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 53 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 2019 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CVRC states, if the funding is appropriated, the agency would solicit the funds to non-profit service providers to facilitate immediate use of \$3,000 per incident. In addition, CVRC would continue to encourage victims of human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence to report to law enforcement, thereby making them eligible for standard compensation of up to \$20 thousand per incident. Victims of human trafficking are hidden populations that are underserved

and do not normally reach out for services.

In FY16, CVRC received an appropriation of \$125 thousand in Section 4 of Laws of 2015, Chapter 101, earmarked for “support, advocacy and services for victims of human trafficking.” However, the language “of human trafficking” was vetoed. Despite the veto, CVRC agreed to assist victims of human trafficking, along with domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Laws of 2016, Chapter 11, included a \$125 thousand nonreverting special appropriation for victims of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. With the funding received to date, CVRC has assisted 75 victims of human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence. No funding was allocated for these specific purposes in the 2017 legislative session.

In FY18, CVRC contracted with five non-profit organizations to administer the funds in order to expedite anticipated expenses to victims of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence. CVRC usually reimburses victims for expenses they have incurred as a result of victimization. In working with service providers, CVRC learned accessing the funds immediately was necessary for relocation, rental assistance, transportation, medical, dental, and counseling assistance.

In order to address the needs of human trafficking victims, sexual assault, and domestic violence victims, CVRC created a specialized procedure to access and administer this 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 victims underserved.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Currently the majority of these victims accessing this funding from non-profits victim service providers are cooperating and reporting to law enforcement, making them potentially eligible for standard compensation. We have had few victims who have not reported to law enforcement access these funds.

**TRE/sb**