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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo, CH ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/2017
LAST UPDATED 2/08/2017 HB 172

SHORT TITLE Services For Victims of Human Trafficking SB _____

ANALYST Rogers

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18		
	\$125.0	Nonrecurring	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 172 appropriates \$125 thousand from the general fund to the Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC) to fund services for victims of human trafficking. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY18 shall revert to the general fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill contains a \$125 thousand appropriation from the general fund.

CVRC analysis states the commission “received an appropriation of \$125 thousand in the FY16 general appropriations act. The act stated the funds were earmarked for ‘support, advocacy and services for victims.’” Human trafficking victims was vetoed. CVRC “agreed to assist victims of human trafficking along with domestic violence and sexual 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 \$145 thousand to date and assisted 75 victims of human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence.”

CVRC also explained the commission treated the allocation as emergency funding and was able to assist these specific victims with immediate needs as result victimization. The commission continues to encourage all victims of human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence to report to law enforcement and thereby making them eligible for standard compensation up to \$20 thousand per incident.

During this current fiscal year, CVRC explained they contracted with four non-profit organizations to administer these funds in order expedite anticipated expenses to victims of human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence. CVRC's usual method of payment is reimbursement to victims for expenses they have incurred as a result of the victimization. In working with service providers, the commission learned that accessing these funds immediately was necessary for relocation, rental assistance, transportation, medical, dental and counseling.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

If CVRC is allocated additional funding, the commission's goal would be to solicit the funds to non-profit service providers to facilitate immediate use of \$3 thousand per incident. In addition, the department would continue to encourage victims of human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence to report to law enforcement, making them eligible for standard compensation of up to \$20 thousand per incident.

In order to address the needs of human trafficking victims, sexual assault and domestic violence victims, the commission 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. Thereby, leaving victims of human trafficking victims underserved.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

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. The commission has had few victims who have not reported to law enforcement access these funds.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

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 our agency to ensure consistency and accountability.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Victims of human trafficking are hidden populations that are underserved and do not normally reach out for services.

TR/jle/al