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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0605	Date:	January 19, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Hartsook; Lukens Sen. Pelton R.; Bridges	Bill Status:	House Judiciary
		Fiscal Analyst:	Clayton Mayfield 303-866-5851 clayton.mayfield@coleg.gov

Bill Topic: VICTIM PROGRAMS IN NEW 23RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill establishes crime victim programs in the 23rd Judicial District. For FY 2024-25 only, the bill increases state and local government workload.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Effective November 1, 2024, the bill creates a crime victim compensation board and a victims and witnesses assistance and law enforcement board (local VALE) and associated funds in the new 23rd Judicial District. The district attorney for the 18th Judicial District and the Judicial Department are required to assist in the creation and administration of these programs and funds until the 23rd Judicial District is active, upon which time current law authorizes the existence of these boards and funds.

Background

23rd Judicial District. [House Bill 20-1026](#) created the 23rd Judicial District effective January 7, 2025. It will be comprised of Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties, which are relocated from the 18th Judicial District.

Boards and funds. Crime victim compensation and local VALE boards are administered primarily by the district attorney's office for the judicial district in which they are located. The boards receive most of their funding from criminal fines and fees. This fine and fee revenue initially accrues to state cash funds, one for each program, in the Judicial Department, which then deposits the allocations for individual districts into bank accounts used by the boards for administration of district programs. The Crime Victim Services Advisory Board in the Department of Public Safety (CDPS) develops standards for the administration of these programs. More

information about victim compensation or local VALE funding can be found in this [LCS Issue Brief on Victim Compensation](#).

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload in the Judicial Department and the CDPS starting in FY 2024-25 as detailed below.

Judicial Department. The initial creation and management of board funds will increase workload for the department. Any workload increase will be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

Department of Public Safety. Ensuring the new boards are operating within standards established by the Crime Victim Services Advisory Board will increase workload for the CDPS. Any workload increase will be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

Local Government

Similar to the state, the district attorney's office for the 18th Judicial District will have an increase in workload to appoint the members to the new boards and assist them until a district attorney for the 23rd Judicial District assumes the office.

Additionally, the bill shifts revenue and related expenditures from victim services programs in the 18th Judicial District to those in the 23rd Judicial District. For informational purposes, local VALE revenue generated by Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties in calendar year 2023 was about \$459,000, and victims compensation revenue was about \$228,000. Overall service levels will remain unchanged since victims in the 23rd Judicial District will be served by the programs in that district instead of the 18th Judicial District.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Corrections
Judicial

Counties
Public Safety

District Attorneys

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).