

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25789

Currently, Idaho Code 72-1019 directs Idaho's Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) to pay for sexual assault forensic evidence collection "after collection from any third party who has liability." Therefore, an adult sexual assault victim's health insurance plan is billed for a sexual assault forensic evidence collection first, and then CVCP pays any remaining costs after the insurance claim is settled. Sexual assault is the only crime in Idaho where the victim's insurance is billed for forensic evidence collection. This legislation takes a third party, insurance, out of the billing process for adult victims and directs Idaho's Crime Victims Compensation Program to pay the entire amount of the cost of sexual assault evidence collection at a medical facility or justice center.

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact of the proposed amendment will be up to \$300,000 ongoing per year. The estimated cost is based on three factors: the statewide average cost for collection of sexual assault forensic evidence charged by providers, the fee schedule maintained by the Idaho Industrial Commission's Crime Victims Compensation Program, and the estimated number of adult sexual assault victims per year. The amount billed by providers for forensic exams varies throughout the state, but estimates from medical providers and victim assistance organizations average approximately \$1,200 per exam. Under the proposed amendment, the Crime Victims Compensation Program in the Idaho Industrial Commission would become responsible for payment of all adult sexual assault forensic exams. The commission maintains a fee schedule that allows it to pay approximately 80% of the cost billed by providers, thus the average cost per exam for the agency would be approximately \$960. While the number of forensic exam kits that are processed each year is tracked by the Idaho State Police, the number of kits from adult victims is not tracked separately, so the annual number of exams for adults is estimated within a range of the known number of kits processed per year. The Idaho State Police estimated that 450 sexual assault forensic exam kits would be received by its state laboratory in 2017, so the number of adult victims is estimated to be 300-400 and the average cost for the exams is expected to range from \$288,000 to \$384,000, thus the anticipated fiscal impact is \$300,000. The Crime Victims Compensation Program plans to pay the costs of adult forensic exams from its dedicated fund and federal grant up to \$50,000, the amount it currently pays on average for this purpose, before utilizing its General Fund appropriation. Any General Fund moneys not used to pay for adult forensic exams will be reverted annually.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).