Fiscal Estimate - 2019 Session

☑ Original ☐ Updated	☐ Corrected ☐ Supp	plemental		
LRB Number 19-1617/1	Introduction Number AB-00	011		
Description obtaining crime victim mental health treatment reco	ords			
Fiscal Effect				
AppropriationsRevenu	ase Existing absorb within agency's			
2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Permissive Mandatory Permiss	sive Mandatory Towns Villa se Revenue Counties Oth School WT	age Cities ers		
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS 455 (5)(a), 455 (5)(ma)				
GPR FED PRO PRS	SEG SEGS 455 (5)(a), 455 (5)(ma)			
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DOJ 4/2/2019

LRB Number	19-1617/1	Introduction Number	AB-0011	Estimate Type	Original	
Description						
obtaining crime victim mental health treatment records						

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill creates a procedure by which a defendant in a criminal case may seek access to the mental health treatment records of a crime victim that are not in the possession of a government entity when the defendant believes those records contain information critical to the defense. The bill specifies that crime victims whose mental health treatment records are being sought have a right to counsel and requires the prosecuting attorney to notify the crime victim that access to his or her mental health treatment records is being sought.

If following an in camera review, the court determines that all or part of the mental health treatment records are eligible for disclosure, the crime victim and prosecution have 45 days to notify the court of an appeal. The crime victim retains the right under the bill to refuse consent for an in camera review of his or her mental health treatment records.

This legislation will increase the amount of communication required to victims of crime from prosecutors and victim witness coordinators. The Office of Crime Victim Services within the Department of Justice may incur costs related to amending training, public information and reference materials for prosecutors, victim witness coordinators and victims of crime. Those costs can be absorbed within the existing budget.

Currently, the department expends approximately \$500,000 annually in federal grant funding providing legal services to victims on privacy issues, including motions to obtain mental health treatment records. This bill would likely increase the demand for those services but the cost can be absorbed within existing resources.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications