



2011 SENATE BILL 480

February 15, 2012 – Introduced by Senators TAYLOR, HANSEN, RISSER and C. LARSON, cosponsored by Representatives SPANBAUER, TURNER, GRIGSBY, BERCEAU, HEBL and FIELDS. Referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

- 1 **AN ACT relating to:** an expenditure of \$90,000 from the general fund for payment
2 of a claim against the state made by Robert Lee Stinson.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill directs expenditure of \$90,000 from the general fund in payment of a claim made by Robert Lee Stinson against the state. In November 1984, the body of Ione Cychosz was found in the city of Milwaukee. Ms. Cychosz was beaten to death and there were numerous bite marks on her body. In December 1985, the claimant was tried and convicted of her murder. There were no witnesses against him, and the only physical evidence was expert witness testimony purporting to match the claimant's dentition with the bite marks on the victim's body. The bite marks did not match because the claimant was missing a tooth, and the bite marks showed the perpetrator did not have that tooth missing, but the claimant's attorney failed to raise that issue. The claimant was sentenced to life imprisonment. After his conviction, the claimant obtained a reexamination of the bite mark evidence using more modern odontological techniques that excluded the claimant as the perpetrator. The state crime laboratory examined samples of the blood and saliva found on the victim's clothing and conclusively excluded the claimant as the source of the samples. The claimant asserted that at the time of the crime he was at a party, which was corroborated by five other persons. In January 2009, the circuit court for Milwaukee County vacated the claimant's conviction and sentence. In July 2009, the state dismissed all charges against the claimant. In July 2009, the DNA of another man, Moses Price, was matched to the crime scene and Mr. Price confessed to the crime. The claimant claimed \$5,000 per year for 23 years of wrongful imprisonment

