



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOJ 2/2/2016

LRB Number	<b>15-1689/1</b>	Introduction Number	<b>AB-0643</b>	Estimate Type	<b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> Compensating victims of crime					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB 643 makes a variety of changes to the Crime Victim Compensation (CVC) program that will likely lead to a neutral fiscal impact.

Under the bill, benefit payments are limited to only 4 years beyond the date of the crime. Currently, the claim can be open until the \$40,000 maximum benefit has been paid out. There are a number of claims in which the program has made payments beyond four years of the crime date. The claims beyond 4 years has made it difficult to makeup in the budget and has led to a deficit in the program. The funding shortage has also required payments for other claims to be made out over time. In 2014, DOJ utilized one-time funding to clear up the budget deficit and payout claims. This change will likely assist in creating more stability in the fund.

It is difficult to estimate the cost associated with proposed changes to Chapter 949. Since CVC is a payer of last resort, it is not possible to know how much funeral benefits may increase if the benefit amount increases to \$5,000 because the program does not always pay the maximum amount of \$2,000 under current law. However, under the bill the \$5,000 funeral benefit will be part of the total \$40,000 cap. The CVC program only pays what the applicant has paid out of pocket or the outstanding balance to the funeral home.

The Wisconsin Funeral and Cemetery Aids Program is available to reimburse providers for up to \$1,500 of unmet funeral/burial expenses and up to \$1,000 unmet cemetery/crematory expenses for certain decedents enrolled in a number of government benefits program. This program is a potential collateral payment source. It is unknown how many crime victims will use this benefit first and then qualify for funeral benefits through the CVC program.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications