

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 519
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Criminal Justice
3/27/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Under current Texas law, victims of domestic violence are eligible to file a claim with the Texas crime victims' compensation fund to seek compensation for certain costs incurred, including relocation costs. However, the term "domestic violence" is not defined under certain statutes and this omission may exclude certain persons who could benefit from assistance with relocation costs. As proposed, H.B. 519 replaces the term "domestic violence" with "family violence" and establishes a definition that enables victims of sexual assault to qualify for compensation.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Article 56.32(a)(9), Code of Criminal Procedure, to redefine "pecuniary loss."

SECTION 2. Amends Article 56.32(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, by adding Subdivision (12), to define "family violence."

SECTION 3. Amends Article 56.42(d), Code of Criminal Procedures, to authorize a victim who is a victim of family, rather than domestic, violence or a victim of sexual assault who is assaulted in the victim's place of residence to receive a onetime-only assistance payment in an amount not to exceed certain dollar limits for certain purposes.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2001.
Makes application of this Act prospective.