

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R6726 ATP-D

S.B. 1227
By: Lindsay
Criminal Justice
4/5/2001
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, a child advocacy center (center) is not allowed to bill the Crime Victims Compensation Fund (CVCF) to cover its medical costs although it is treating child victims. When law enforcement agencies and Children's Protective Services (CPS) use such a center to obtain medical treatment for children under their control, neither the law enforcement agencies nor CPS pays the center the amount necessary to cover the expenses for the medical exam. As proposed, S.B. 1227 allows a center to bill CVCF for its reasonable costs in providing medical treatment, therapy, or medical evaluations, including lab work, to victims of abuse. S.B. 1227 also allows for CVCF to pay for testimony, including expert witnesses, on behalf of abused children in court proceedings related to the abuse.

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. Reenacts and amends Article 56.54(b), Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by Chapters 1042 and 1434, Acts of the 75th Legislature, Regular Session, 1997, as follows:

(b) Adds Subsection (j) and (k) as exceptions to the requirement that the compensation to victims of crime fund be used only by the attorney general for the payment of compensation to claimants or victims under this subchapter, the operation of the Crime Victims' Institute created by Chapter 412, Government Code, and other expenses in administering this subchapter.

SECTION 2. Amends Article 56.54, Code of Criminal Procedures, to authorize the attorney general to use the compensation to victims of crime fund to reimburse a children's advocacy center established under Chapter 264E (Children's Advocacy Centers), Family Code, for reasonable costs incurred by the center in providing medical treatment, therapy, or medical evaluations, including laboratory work, to victims of child abuse and testimony on behalf of abused children in court proceedings related to the abuse.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.

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