



Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL ANALYSIS



Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bill 943 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator William Van Regenmorter
Committee: Appropriations

CONTENT

The bill would revise the criminal assessments Act to increase the assessments for felony convictions from \$40 to \$60 and for misdemeanor convictions from \$30 to \$50.

Currently, the law provides that persons convicted of certain State or local felony and misdemeanor offenses must pay an assessment to the Crime Victim's Rights Fund. The assessments are used to partially offset the cost of the Crime Victim's Rights Services Grant Program. The current rates are \$40 for felony offenses and \$30 for misdemeanor offenses.

MCL 780.905

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact would depend on the number of convictions and the compliance rate of those convicted. Statistically, misdemeanants account for 85% of the current revenue collected. Revenues amounted to \$1,637,700 in FY 1993-94 and \$3,143,600 in FY 1994-95. This represented an increase of 48%, which was due to the May 1994 increase in assessments. This increase was from \$30 to \$40 for felonies, \$20 to \$30 for misdemeanors, and \$0 to \$20 for juvenile offenders.

The Governor's FY 1996-97 budget recommendation reduced the General Fund portion of the Crime Victim's Rights Fund by \$1,000,000 and increased the restricted amount by \$1.0 million in anticipation of an increase in the assessments, and to shift the burden of compensating victims away from the taxpayers to the offenders. Based on the statistical information, the Department of Management and Budget believes that the \$1.0 million of increased revenue in FY 1996-97 is a conservative estimate.

Date Completed: 5-14-96

Fiscal Analyst: M. Bain

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