

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Impound fees; Vehicle theft; Emergency assistance

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Overview

This bill authorizes emergency grant assistance to reimburse crime victims for fees incurred due to the impoundment of a recovered stolen vehicle. The bill expands an existing grant program that provides emergency assistance to crime victims. The grant program currently provides assistance to crime victims for replacing broken doors and windows, installing security devices, and cleaning up crime scenes. The bill adds "reimbursement of impound fees" to the list of compensable emergency assistance purposes and appropriates general fund money for this purpose. Local prosecutors and victim assistance programs distribute the grants.

Section

- 1** **Grants authorized.** Adds the following as a compensable purpose under the emergency assistance grant program: reimbursement of towing and storage fees incurred due to impoundment of a recovered stolen vehicle.
- 2** **Application for grants.** Provides that local prosecutors and victim assistance programs that apply for funds to reimburse impound fees must make a separate application to the commissioner. Authorizes the applicant to spend up to five percent of the grant awarded for administrative costs.
- 3** **Awards; limitations.** (a) Prohibits awards to victims that failed to carry the minimum amount of insurance required by law. (b) Limits individual awards to \$300.
- 1-4** **Emergency assistance grant program.** Replaces an obsolete reference to the "Crime Victim and Witness Advisory Council" with the "commissioner of public safety."

Section

- 5** **Report to the legislature.** Directs the commissioner of public safety to submit a report to the legislature by February 1, 2008, regarding the implementation, use, and administration of the emergency assistance grant program.
- 6** **Appropriation.** Appropriates a blank amount from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety. Adds the amount to the base budget.