

**SUBJECT:** Compensating a child victim of a murder attempt for certain expenses

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 23 ayes — Zerwas, Longoria, C. Bell, G. Bonnen, Buckley, Capriglione, Cortez, S. Davis, M. González, Hefner, Howard, Jarvis Johnson, Miller, Muñoz, Schaefer, Sherman, Smith, Stucky, Toth, J. Turner, VanDeaver, Walle, Wilson

0 nays

4 absent — Minjarez, Rose, Sheffield, Wu

**WITNESSES:** For — Gyl Switzer, Texas Gun Sense; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Pamela Bixby, League of Women Voters Texas)

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Code of Criminal Procedure ch. 56, subch. B, the Crime Victims' Compensation Act, requires the attorney general to award compensation for pecuniary loss resulting from criminally injurious conduct if the attorney general is satisfied by a preponderance of the evidence that certain criteria are met.

Art. 56.42(d) places a limitation on compensation for victims of stalking, family violence, trafficking, or sexual assault in places of residence. These victims can receive a onetime-only assistance payment of up to \$2,000 for relocation expenses and \$1,800 for housing rental expenses.

Some have suggested that a child who was the victim of a murder attempt in the child's home should be eligible for compensation for relocation and housing rental expenses similar to what is afforded to victims of certain other crimes, ensuring the victim's safety and assisting in recovery.

**DIGEST:** HB 2079 would allow a child who was a victim of a murder attempt in the child's home to receive the onetime-only, capped assistance payment for

relocation and housing rental expenses that is available to victims of certain crimes under Code of Criminal Procedure art. 56.42(d).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to victims of crimes that were committed on or after that date.