

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 3255  
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Criminal Justice  
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Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, the Crime Victims' Compensation Act does not permit victims of domestic violence to file claims seeking compensation from the compensation to victims of crime fund for reimbursement of relocation and housing rental expenses. Frequently, such victims have no recourse when they attempt to relocate in order to escape further violence. H.B. 3255 permits a victim of domestic violence to file a claim on the compensation to victims of crime fund to seek compensation for costs incurred for relocation and housing rental expenses.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 3255 permits a victim of domestic violence to file a claim on the compensation to victims of crime fund to seek compensation for costs incurred for relocation and housing rental expenses.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Article 56.32(9), Code of Criminal Procedure, to redefine “pecuniary loss” to include the amount of expense reasonably and necessarily incurred as a result of personal injury or death for reasonable and necessary costs, as provided by Article 56.42(d), incurred by a victim of domestic violence for relocation and housing rental assistance payments.

SECTION 2. Amends Article 56.42, Code of Criminal Procedure, by adding Subsection (d), to authorize a victim of domestic violence to receive a one-time only assistance payment in a certain amount.

SECTION 3. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.