

HB 2391 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/21, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), from the General Fund, 23.5 million dollars, to fund county victim assistance programs. Provides for one victim assistance advocate for every two full-time prosecuting attorneys in a county district attorney office, but at a minimum provides for one advocate. Funding would begin July 1, 2023. Unspent funds would revert to the General Fund at the end of the biennium.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Victim advocates are typically assigned in felony and domestic violence cases. District attorney offices have trained advocates that work directly with crime victims to explain the criminal justice system, including what their rights are, accompany them to court, refer them to appropriate community services, and guide victims through the prosecution process.

House Bill 2391 would appropriate to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), from the General Fund, 23.5 million dollars, to fund county victim assistance programs, and would fund at least one victim assistance advocate per county district attorney office.