

## HB 2391 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Judiciary

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**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/21, 3/29

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#### 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.

*FISCAL:* Fiscal impact issued

*REVENUE:* No revenue impact

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Appropriates to the Department of Justice (DOJ), for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, \$25,400,000. Directs the DOJ to distribute moneys to fund victim assistance advocates (advocate) in county district attorney (DA) offices at a four-to-one ratio (for every four full-time DAs, one advocate), or, if a county has less than four full-time DAs, directs the DOJ to fund one advocate. At the end of the biennium, unexpended moneys revert to the General Fund. Takes effect on the 91st day after sine die.

##### 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.