

SENATE THIRD READING
 SB 1005 (Atkins)
 As Introduced August 23, 2018
 2/3 vote

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

Committee	Votes	Ayes	Noes
Public Safety	7-0	Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Carrillo, McCarty, Kiley, Quirk, Weber	
Appropriations	16-0	Gonzalez Fletcher, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonta, Brough, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Eggman, Fong, Friedman, Gallagher, Eduardo Garcia, Nazarian, Quirk, Reyes	

SUMMARY: Authorizes the California Victim Compensation Board (board) to compensate a crime victim for a pet deposit and additional rent required if the victim has a pet. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Expands "expenses incurred in relocating" to include pet deposit and additional rent required if the victim has a pet.
- 2) Includes pet deposit in the funds required for relocation, and upon expiration of a victim's rental agreement, VCB shall be named the recipient of the funds.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the board to operate the California Victim Compensation Program (CaIVCP).
- 2) Provides that an application for compensation shall be filed with the board in the manner determined by the board.
- 3) Authorizes the board to reimburse for pecuniary loss for the following types of losses:
 - a) Medical or medical-related expenses incurred by the victim for services provided by a licensed medical provider;
 - b) Out-patient psychiatric, psychological or other mental health counseling-related expenses incurred by the victim or derivative victim, including peer counseling services;
 - c) Compensation equal to the loss of income or loss of support, or both, that a victim or derivative victim incurs as a direct result of the victim's injury or the victim's death,
 - d) Cash payment to, or on behalf of, the victim for job retraining or similar employment-oriented services;
 - e) The expense of installing or increasing residential security, not to exceed \$1,000;

- f) The expense of renovating or retrofitting a victim's residence or vehicle to make them accessible or operational, if it is medically necessary;
 - g) Relocation expenses up to \$2,000 if the expenses are determined by law enforcement to be necessary for the victim's personal safety, or by a mental health treatment provider to be necessary for the emotional well-being of the victim; and,
 - h) Funeral or burial expenses.
- 4) States that if a security deposit is required for relocation, the board shall be named as the recipient and receive the funds upon expiration of the victim's rental agreement.
- 5) Limits the total award to or on behalf of each victim or derivative victim to \$70,000.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, unknown, potentially significant costs (Restitution Fund and federal funds) to CalVCB to pay relocations expenses related to pets, as authorized by this bill. For example, if 1,150 victims (half of the current claimants for relocation expenses) are reimbursed \$250 each, total reimbursement for pet relocation will be \$287,500 annually. In addition, it is possible some victims choose not to relocate because of difficulties relocating with a pet. To the extent more victims with pets choose to relocate as a result of this bill, costs will be higher. While some of the reimbursements required under this bill are currently allowed by CalVCB administrative decisions, putting these requirements into statute will remove CalVCB's flexibility to reduce or eliminate such reimbursements in the future, thus resulting in potential state costs.

COMMENTS: According to the author, "SB 1005 will help victims of domestic violence leave their abusive environment by reducing the financial costs associated with escaping domestic violence with their pet, who is often an important source of comfort and support."

Please see the policy committee analysis for a full discussion of this bill.

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