

A.B. 481

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 481—COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MAY 12, 2021

Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

SUMMARY—Requires the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services to designate a statewide center to provide assistance to certain victims. (BDR 16-1143)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to crime; requiring the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, to the extent that money is available for this purpose, to designate a statewide center to provide assistance to certain victims; authorizing the Administrator of the Division to accept any gift, grant, donation, bequest or other source of money for the purpose of carrying out duties related to the center; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law declares it to be the policy of this State to provide assistance to persons who are victims of violent crimes or the dependents of victims of violent crimes. (NRS 217.010) This bill requires the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, to the extent that money is available for this purpose and in collaboration with persons and entities that advocate for the needs of victims, to designate a statewide center to provide assistance to victims. This bill defines "victim" to mean a person who suffers direct harm as a result of a violent crime or a person who suffers harm as an indirect consequence of a violent crime.

If a statewide center to provide assistance to victims is designated, this bill requires the center to be based in a county whose population is 700,000 or more (currently Clark County) and, to the extent money is available, to: (1) provide certain support services to victims; (2) assist the Division with expanding the services available to victims; and (3) provide certain training and technical assistance and take other preparatory steps to ensure that communities throughout the State are adequately trained and equipped to provide victim support services relating to critical incidents. Finally, this bill authorizes the Administrator of the



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Division to accept any gift, grant, donation, bequest or other source of money for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this bill and requires the deposit of such money in the Victim Support Gift Account, which is established in this bill.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 217 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. In collaboration with persons and entities that advocate for the needs of victims, the Division shall, to the extent that money is available for this purpose, designate a statewide center to provide assistance to victims.

2. If a center is designated pursuant to subsection 1, the center must, to the extent money is available, provide support services to victims, including, without limitation, by:

(a) Providing referral services and case management services to connect victims with:

(1) Necessary medical and behavioral health care services, including, without limitation, counseling services and treatment for post-traumatic stress;

(2) Agencies which provide compensation to and support for victims;

(3) Legal aid services; and

(4) Services provided by a federal, state or local law enforcement agency;

(b) Providing advocacy services for victims, including, without limitation, services designed to ensure victims are reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses that are eligible for reimbursement by an agency which provides compensation and support for victims;

(c) Providing information concerning counseling services and facilitating the provision of counseling services, including, without limitation, through virtual and in-person support groups and wellness events;

(d) Providing technical assistance with applying for online services available to victims;

(e) Operating a call center for the purpose of providing information relating to support services available to victims; and

(f) Responding to critical incidents in this State.

3. If a center is designated pursuant to subsection 1, the center must:

(a) Be based in a county whose population is 700,000 or more and provide direct services to victims in that county;

(b) To the extent money is available, assist the Division with expanding the services available to victims in this State; and



(c) To the extent money is available, provide training and technical assistance and take other preparatory steps to ensure that communities throughout the State are adequately trained and equipped to provide support services to victims relating to critical incidents.

4. The Administrator may accept any gift, grant, donation, bequest or other source of money for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this section. Any money so received must be deposited in the Victim Support Gift Account, which is hereby established in the State General Fund. The Administrator shall administer the Account. The interest and income earned on money in the Account from any gift, grant, donation or bequest, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account. Money from any gift, grant, donation or bequest that remains in the Account at the end of the fiscal year does not revert to the State General Fund, and the balance in the Account must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

5. As used in this section:

(a) “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Division.

(b) “Critical incident” means an abnormal event that is sudden and unexpected and has a stressful impact sufficient to overwhelm the coping skills of a person.

(c) “Division” means the Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) “Victim” means a person who suffers direct harm as a result of a violent crime or a person who suffers harm as an indirect consequence of a violent crime, including, without limitation, by witnessing the crime.

