

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6977**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1361

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 27, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Rape Crisis Centers.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Lawson L

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  GENERAL  
 DEDICATED  
 FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill creates the Sexual Assault Standards and Certification Board to certify sexual assault victim advocates. It transfers control of the Sexual Assault Victims Account from the State Department of Health to the Commission for Women. The bill also repeals the Sexual Assault Victims Assistance Fund and replaces it with the Sexual Assault Victims Account.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill establishes a seven-member Sexual Assault Standards and Certification Board appointed by the Governor, with one member recommended by the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Staff for the Board would be provided by the Department of Workforce Development. The Board would develop standards for certification as a sexual assault victim advocate, set fees to cover the costs for the certification process, and adopt rules to implement the section. Additionally, the Board would administer the Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance Account, which is established under the bill. To the extent that the Board will incur expenditures to develop standards, one-time set up costs will be incurred. The ongoing costs of certification will be paid by the fees collected for this purpose. The Board may designate up to 10% of the money appropriated to a nonprofit for program administration and may use up to 10% of the money collected for certification fees to administer the certification program.

***Background:*** Three-year start-up costs for the six-member Indiana Hypnotist Committee were estimated by the Health Professions Bureau at \$85,000. However, there are no data available to indicate that this Board would incur similar start-up costs. Salary per diem is not allowed under the bill, however, mileage reimbursement is permitted.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** The Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance fee is collected by the county court clerk for violation of listed crimes, and forwarded to the Auditor of State for deposit in the Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance Fund. Under the bill, the Fund would be repealed and the revenues from the fee would be deposited in the Sexual Assault Victim's Assistant Account within the state General Fund. Additionally, the Account may receive appropriations, fees for certification, grants, gifts, donations, and interest. The Account would provide financial assistance to rape crisis centers by distributing funds to statewide nonprofit corporations for distribution to rape crisis centers.

*Background:* The Sexual Assault Victim's Assistance Fund was established by P.L. 280 of 2001 and is administered by the Office of Women's Health within the State Department of Health. Fee revenues deposited in the Fund in FY 2002 totaled \$30,242, and as of November 30, 2002, \$552 had been deposited. No expenditures have been made from the Fund. In August 2002, the Office of Women's Health issued a request for letters of intent to nonprofit organizations pursuing the eradication of sexual assault in Indiana.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Office of Women's Health, Department of Health; Department of Workforce Development.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Karen Firestone, 317-234-2106