

HB 743 -- CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION FUND

SPONSOR: Conway (104)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Budget by a vote of 32 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, the Director of the Department of Revenue is required to deposit \$250,000 annually to the state forensic laboratory account administered by the Department of Public Safety to defray expenses of crime laboratories if such laboratories are registered with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency or the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. This bill increases the required deposit amount to \$1 million.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Highway Patrol is having trouble attracting and retaining forensic lab personnel. The Crime Victim's Compensation Fund was established in 1981 and receives \$7.50 per court case. Forensic labs help crime victims and currently, receive \$250,000. This bill will allow the lab to benefit from some of the excess monies in the fund.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Conway and the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.