

# Legislative Analysis



## ALLOW VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS OF CRIME VICTIMS TO BE BLURRED IN STREAMED COURT PROCEEDINGS

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5680 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Ken Borton**  
**Committee: Judiciary**  
**Complete to 1-31-22**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 5680 would amend the William Van Regenmorter Crime Victim's Rights Act to allow a crime victim's image to be blurred in certain court proceedings made available to the public.

The act currently exempts certain information and visual representations of a crime victim from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), including a picture, photograph, drawing, or other visual representation of the victim, such as a film, videotape, or digitally stored image.

The bill would additionally allow such a picture, photograph, drawing, or other visual representation to be blurred if it is from a court proceeding that is made available to the public through streaming on the internet or other means.

MCL 780.758 et seq.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5680 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local units of government. According to the State Court Administrative Office, local courts would have to purchase and deploy software that would enable courts to blur victims' faces while on Zoom. This would also require a designated staff person to actively manage the filter. The costs for the software are not known at this time.

Legislative Analyst: Emily S. Smith  
Fiscal Analyst: Robin Risko

---

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.