

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 reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Ken Borton

Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 6-15-22

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.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified in support of the bill (2-1-22):

- Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

Representatives of the following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Michigan Association of Counties (6-7-22)
- Michigan Sheriffs' Association (2-1-22)
- Michigan Poverty Law Program (2-1-22)

The Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board indicated opposition to the bill. (6-7-22)

Legislative Analyst: Susan Stutzky

Fiscal Analyst: Robin Risko

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