

File No. 240217

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 28

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: March 12, 2024

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: March 8, 2024

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Supporting California Assembly Bill No. 1956 (Reyes) - Supporting the Stable Funding
2 of Victim Services]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1956, introduced by**
4 **Assembly Member Eloise Reyes, to prioritize continuity and stability of California’s**
5 **crime victim services.**

6
7 WHEREAS, The criminal justice system can result in victims navigating inaccessible
8 bureaucracies and undergoing traumatic experiences before, during, and after a verdict has
9 been reached; and

10 WHEREAS, The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 created the Crime Victims Fund and
11 authorized federal financial assistance to states for the purpose of supporting eligible crime
12 victim assistance programs; and

13 WHEREAS, The Office of Emergency Services administers these federal funds to
14 nonprofits as well as tribal and governmental entities across California to support victim
15 service providers so that victims of crime can access necessary assistance; and

16 WHEREAS, The Crime Victims Fund under the Office of Emergency Services has
17 slowly depleted over the past decade, resulting in local direct service providers being
18 jeopardized; and

19 WHEREAS, In the fiscal year 2021-2022, the funds administered by the Office of
20 Emergency Services supported hundreds of thousands of emergency shelter nights, services
21 for over forty-six thousand individuals experiencing sexual violence through California’s rape
22 crisis centers, support for over sixteen-thousand child abuse survivors and their families, and
23 distribution of information about the criminal justice process to hundreds of thousands of
24 individuals; and

25

1 WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 1956, introduced by Assembly Member
2 Eloise Reyes, seeks to ensure the continuity and stability of crime victim services in
3 California by ensuring that services provided by the Office of Emergency Services are not
4 depleted in the event of federal funding fluctuation; and

5 WHEREAS, By stabilizing the State funding and support for the victim services
6 programs provided by the Office of Emergency Services, California State Assembly Bill No.
7 1956 provides for the development, support, and continuity of the trauma-informed, high-
8 quality services for victims of crime; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports California State
10 Assembly Bill No. 1956; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board send a copy of this Resolution to
12 Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro Tempore Mike McGuire, and Speaker of the State
13 Assembly Robert Rivas.

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AB-1956 Victim services. (2023-2024)

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Date Published: 03/04/2024 09:00 PM

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 04, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 1956

Introduced by Assembly Member Reyes

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Addis, Alanis, Bonta, Friedman, Gipson, Grayson, Kalra, Low, Stephanie Nguyen, Ortega, Joe Patterson, Quirk-Silva, Santiago, Waldron, Ward)

January 29, 2024

An act to add Section 13823.18 to the Penal Code, relating to victim services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1956, as amended, Reyes. Victim services.

Existing federal law, the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, creates the Crime Victims Fund and authorizes federal financial assistance to states for the purpose of supporting eligible crime victim assistance programs. Existing law creates various programs under the Office of Emergency Services related to crime prevention and education, including, among other things, programs concerning family violence prevention and domestic violence prevention.

This bill would require the office to allocate funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to fill the gap in the federal Victims of Crime Act funding and to prioritize continuity and stability of crime victim services if the federal grant funding that is awarded to the office is 10% or more lower than the amount awarded in the prior year. The bill would require the office to regularly consult, collaborate with, and consider the recommendations regarding allocation of funding from the Victims of Crime Act Steering Committee.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: no

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), through the Crime Victims Fund, is the largest federal funding source for victim service providers. VOCA funds essential services that crime victims need access to, such as rape crisis

centers, domestic violence shelters, child abuse programs, court appointed special advocates, legal assistance, human trafficking services, and ~~more:~~ *more services.*

(b) In California, the Office of Emergency Services currently administers these federal funds to nonprofits, tribal, and governmental entities across California.

(c) In the 2021–22 fiscal year, these funds supported all of the following:

(1) A range of housing options for domestic violence survivors and their children, including 354,227 emergency shelter nights, transitional housing for 180,628 individuals, and support for another 6,882 individuals with housing services through a Housing First approach that connects individuals and families experiencing homelessness quickly and successfully to permanent housing.

(2) Services for 46,461 individuals experiencing sexual violence through California’s rape crisis centers.

(3) Culturally appropriate victim services for 42,184 unserved and underserved survivors of crime and 4,333 child and youth survivors of crime from unserved and underserved communities, and 866 culturally rooted therapy sessions provided to Native American children victimized by abuse or neglect.

(4) Comprehensive services to 15,156 elder abuse victims.

(5) Services for child abuse and neglect survivors, including 1,133 individual counseling sessions provided to children who are victims of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, advocacy or accompaniment for 8,649 foster youth through the Court Appointed Special Advocate program, comprehensive psychotherapy services for 14,732 children victimized by abuse or neglect and their family members and caregivers, support for 16,636 child abuse survivors and their families through victim-centered, trauma-informed forensic interviews, advocacy, direct or referral to therapy or counseling, and referrals for medical exams.

(6) Comprehensive services for 1,138 human trafficking survivors.

(7) Distribution of information about the criminal justice process to 275,270 people.

(d) Due to shifting prosecution styles, the Crime Victims Fund has slowly depleted over the past decade, jeopardizing funding for local direct service providers.

SEC. 2. Section 13823.18 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

13823.18. (a) The purpose of this section is to provide for the development, support, and continuity of victim services programs, provide trauma-informed, high-quality services for victims of crime, and to stabilize funding and support for victim services programs by supplementing federal funding for victim services programs when the federal Victims of Crime Act funding fluctuates.

(b) (1) If the grant funding from the federal Victims of Crime Act that is awarded to the Office of Emergency Services is 10 percent or more lower than the amount awarded the prior year, the office shall allocate funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to fill the gap in the federal Victims of Crime Act funding and to prioritize continuity and stability of crime victim services in the state.

(2) Funds for the victim services programs provided in accordance with this section shall be used to supplement, not supplant, funds that the programs receive from other sources.

(3) The office shall ensure that the funds awarded under this section are administered in a unified process with the federal Victims of Crime Act funds.

(4) The programs that receive funding from the office shall provide services to victims of crime as authorized by the federal Victims of Crime Act and related regulations.

(c) The office shall regularly consult, collaborate with, and consider the recommendations regarding the allocation of funding from the Victims of Crime Act Steering Committee.

From: [Rosas, Lorenzo \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Donovan, Dominica \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Introduction of Resolution in Support of AB 1956
Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 11:13:09 AM
Attachments: [Bill Text - AB-1956 Victim services .pdf](#)
[Introduction Form - Resolution - SB 905 \(2023\).pdf](#)
[2024.03.05 - Resolution - Supporting AB 1956 Victim Services- \(Stefani\).pdf](#)
[2024.03.05 - Resolution - Supporting AB 1956 Victim Services- \(Stefani\).docx](#)

Hello,

Please see attached for the introduction documents (introduction form, resolution draft, and bill text) for a resolution in support of Assembly Bill 1956 (Reyes). I have also attached the bill text and a word document copy of the resolution if format cleanup is necessary.

The California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities have **not** taken a position on the bill.

Please let me know if there are any questions about this resolution introduction! Thank you!

Best,

Lorenzo Rosas | Legislative Aide
Office of Supervisor Catherine Stefani
San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 2
City Hall, Room 273
(415) 554-7752
www.sfbos.org/Stefani

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Stefani

Subject:

Supporting California Assembly Bill No. 1956 (Reyes) – Supporting the Stable Funding of Victim Services

The text is listed:

Resolution in support of California State Assembly Bill 1956, introduced by Assemblymember Eloise Reyes, to prioritize continuity and stability of California’s crime victim services.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: /s/ Catherine Stefani

For Clerk's Use Only