

By: Keel

H.B. No. 170

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to compensation under the Crime Victims' Compensation Act  
3 for necessary costs incurred in witnessing an execution.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Article 56.32(a)(9), Code of Criminal Procedure,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 (9) "Pecuniary loss" means the amount of expense  
8 reasonably and necessarily incurred as a result of personal injury  
9 or death for:

10 (A) medical, hospital, nursing, or psychiatric  
11 care or counseling, or physical therapy;

12 (B) actual loss of past earnings and anticipated  
13 loss of future earnings and necessary travel expenses because of:

14 (i) a disability resulting from the  
15 personal injury;

16 (ii) the receipt of medically indicated  
17 services related to the disability resulting from the personal  
18 injury; or

19 (iii) participation in or attendance at  
20 investigative, prosecutorial, or judicial processes related to the  
21 criminally injurious conduct and participation in or attendance at  
22 any postconviction or postadjudication proceeding relating to  
23 criminally injurious conduct;

24 (C) care of a child or dependent;

1 (D) funeral and burial expenses;

2 (E) loss of support to a dependent, consistent  
3 with Article 56.41(b)(5);

4 (F) reasonable and necessary costs of cleaning  
5 the crime scene;

6 (G) reasonable replacement costs for clothing,  
7 bedding, or property of the victim seized as evidence or rendered  
8 unusable as a result of the criminal investigation; ~~and~~

9 (H) reasonable and necessary costs, as provided  
10 by Article 56.42(d), incurred by a victim of family violence or a  
11 victim of sexual assault who is assaulted in the victim's place of  
12 residence for relocation and housing rental assistance payments;  
13 and

14 (I) reasonable and necessary costs of traveling  
15 to and from a place of execution for the purpose of witnessing the  
16 execution, including one night's lodging near the place at which  
17 the execution is conducted.

18 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
19 to compensation for costs incurred on or after the effective date of  
20 this Act. Compensation for costs incurred before the effective date  
21 of this Act is covered by the law in effect on the date the costs  
22 were incurred, and the former law is continued in effect for that  
23 purpose.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.