

1 HB677
2 129848-2
3 By Representative McClurkin
4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
5 First Read: 24-MAY-11

SYNOPSIS: This bill would provide funding for the Quenette Shehane Crime Victims Program through a ten dollar fee to be collected on all boat registrations in the state and would provide that the funds be distributed to Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL) to be used to assist victims of violent crimes and the families of victims of violent crimes pursuant to this act.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To provide funding for the Quenette Shehane Crime Victims Program; to provide for a fee on all boat registrations in the state; to provide that the funds would be distributed to Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL) to be used to assist victims of violent crimes and the families of victims of violent crimes pursuant to this act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. (a) In addition to any other fees
2 provided for by law, a fee of ten dollars (\$10) shall be
3 collected on all certificates of registration for vessels
4 registered in this state under Chapter 5 of Title 33 of the
5 Code of Alabama 1975.

6 (b) The funds collected pursuant to this section
7 shall be distributed to Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL)
8 for the purposes of this act.

9 Section 2. (a) The funds collected under Section 1
10 shall be remitted to VOCAL to be used to establish the
11 Quenette Shehane Crime Victims Program.

12 (b) The Quenette Shehane Crime Victims Program shall
13 assist victims of violent crimes and the families of victims
14 of violent crimes by providing first responders for immediate
15 crisis intervention, counseling, crime scene cleanup, criminal
16 justice support, assistance with funeral arrangements, and
17 assistance with compensation filing.

18 (c) The Quenette Shehane Crime Victims Program shall
19 be operated by the VOCAL Board of Directors, which may do all
20 of the following:

21 (1) Employ a project director who shall be in
22 control of the daily operations of the Quenette Shehane Crime
23 Victims Program.

24 (2) Employ a licensed professional counselor to
25 facilitate and supervise first responders.

26 (3) Conduct an annual evaluation to provide
27 information on efficiency and adequacy of services provided.

1 (4) Provide a report of the financial condition of
2 the Quenette Shehane Crime Victims Program to the President of
3 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives at
4 least 30 days prior to the end of each fiscal year.

5 (5) Conduct an annual financial audit by a private
6 firm and provide an accounting for all incomes and
7 expenditures.

8 (6) Provide an annual accounting of services
9 delivered to victims or the families of victims.

10 (7) Utilize funds to provide first responders for
11 judicial circuits to work with the county coroner and law
12 enforcement to assist and provide crisis intervention to the
13 victims of violent crimes or the families of victims of
14 violent crimes and provide annual continuing education
15 seminars to the participating coroners and law enforcement.

16 (8) Draft a Memorandum of Governing Principles
17 outlining the general guidelines and regulations of the
18 Quenette Shehane Crime Victims Program and keep the memorandum
19 as a public record.

20 (d)(1) The funds collected pursuant to this act
21 shall be sent to the VOCAL Board on the tenth day of each
22 month by the collecting authority in each county and the VOCAL
23 Board shall have the authority to expend the funds collected
24 in accordance with this act.

25 (2) The VOCAL Board shall keep detailed records of
26 all expenditures and disbursements of funds collected pursuant
27 to this act for at least five years.

1 Section 3. This act shall become effective
2 immediately following its passage and approval by the
3 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.