

LB 757: Extending Eligibility Timeline Requirements for Crime Victim's Reparations Applicants

What is the CRIME VICTIM'S REPARATIONS (CVR) PROGRAM?



The Crime Victim's Reparations (CVR) program supports eligible victims of certain crimes by providing reimbursements for financial losses the victim has experienced related to the crime they suffered. The program may reimburse victims or their families for medical expenses, funeral expenses, counseling expenses, loss of wages and loss of earning power. **The maximum award is \$25,000 per incident.**

To be eligible for the program, the victim must have reported the crime to law enforcement within three days of the incident and applied to the CVR program within two years of the date of the crime.

What Will LB 757 Do?

LB 757 WILL EXTEND THE ELIGIBILITY TIMELINES for victims seeking to apply to the CVR program.

	Current Eligibility Timeline	Eligibility Timeline If LB 757 Passes
A victim must report the crime to law enforcement	Within three days of the crime	Within five days of the crime
A victim who was a minor during the time of the crime or their family member must apply to the CVR program	Within two years of the crime	On or before the victim's 22nd birthday or within three years of the victim's death

LB 757 aligns with the Women's Fund values of **Community Voice** and **Equity**. To learn more about our mission, vision and values, visit www.OmahaWomensFund.org.



Why is LB 757 Important?

It is critical that trauma-informed support services are provided to victims to prevent re-traumatization. This gives victims the time needed to process what has happened to them. Extending the time to report a crime to law enforcement from three to five days provides this necessary time for victims who may be hesitant to report.

LB 757 will provide better support to victims who were minors at the time of the crime by adopting trauma-informed best practices and providing additional time for survivors to apply to the CVR program. A victim's needs can change over time, and for victims who are minors at the time, this is especially true. It is common for people sexually abused as children to need support over time as they grow and better understand their own victimization. This change will allow healing to continue for people who were victimized as children.

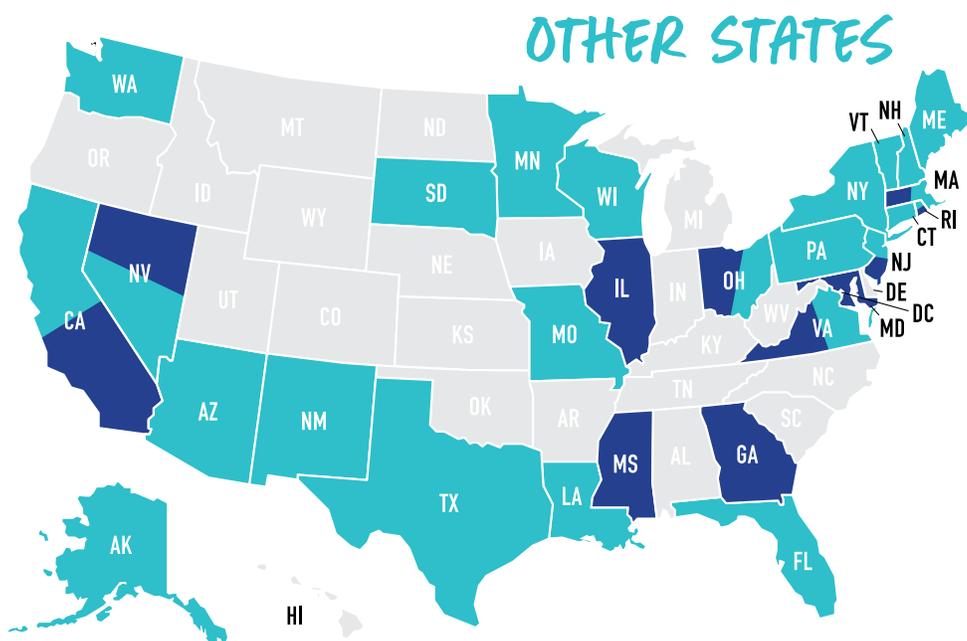
Because a victim must exhaust all other payment options (personal insurance or other state and federal programs) before applying to the CVR program, there may be a delay in determining if a victim can and should apply to the CVR program if they are waiting to hear from other funding sources. **LB 757 will provide extended time for victims to remain eligible to apply for the program.**

From 2019 to 2020, health care providers in Nebraska completed **1,592 sexual assault** medical exams. Of those exams:

43% were completed for sexual assault victims ages **12 and under.**

21% for victims ages **13 to 17.**¹

There is **no statutory limit** on prosecuting child sexual assault cases. **LB 757** creates consistency through the CVR program to ensure that minors are provided a **timeline for applicants** more compatible with the **prosecution timeline.**



24 states allow victims five or more days to report to law enforcement or no timeline at all to be eligible to apply for funds through their respective CVR programs.

11 states allow those who are minors at the time of the crime at least three years after turning the age of majority to be eligible to apply for funds through their respective CVR programs.

¹ Nebraska Office of the Attorney General. "Nebraska Sexual Assault Payment Program. 2019-2020 Fiscal Year in Review." <https://ago.nebraska.gov/sites/ago.nebraska.gov/files/doc/Report%20-%20SAPP%20FY%202019-2020%20in%20Review.pdf>