

### **Gov. Signs Domestic Violence, Hate-Crime and ADAP Bills**

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By Andrew Davis

Gov. Rod Blagojevich has signed two new laws to help strengthen protection for domestic-violence victims and increase compensation for hate-crime victims.

House Bill 4649, sponsored by Rep. Jack Franks, D-Woodstock, and Sen. John Millner, will protect victims of domestic violence. The statute creates a checklist for judges to consider before setting bail for a domestic violence offender. The items on the list include the offender's mental health and his or her history of violence.

House Bill 4134, sponsored by Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, and Sen. John Cullerton, D-Chicago, adds hate crimes to the list of offenses covered under the Crime Victims Compensation Act. The measure also requires victim compensation to include such items as hospital-related transportation expenses and tuition. The bill also defines the parents of any person—no matter what age—as victims.

In a separate statement, Feigenholtz said that “[v]ictims of hate crimes are put under terrible emotional and psychological strain. It's important to remember the financial problems that can follow the crime as well.”

Hate crimes in Illinois are defined as violent actions against individuals because of their race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

In addition, Blagojevich has signed off on House Bill 4302, which essentially helps low-income individuals afford HIV treatment. Under the new measure, the state can transfer the majority of prescription drug costs to the federal government's Medicare program. Those who are eligible for the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and Medicare but who cannot afford out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs will be helped by the Illinois Cares Rx Program, resulting in less fiscal pressure on ADAP—which will keep it solvent.

In a separate statement, Feigenholtz, who spearheaded the measure in the House, declared that “ADAP has been very effective in making prescription drugs affordable for individuals affected with HIV and AIDS. [This measure] will shift many of the financial burdens to the federal government so that ADAP can continue being a source of assistance and hope to those who need it most.”