

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 5135
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 22, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Prohibits VCCO from denying award of compensation to victims with certain outstanding warrants and charges.

Type of Impact: No State fiscal impact.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Annual Fiscal Impact	
State Expenditure	No fiscal impact
State Revenue	No fiscal impact

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill will have no revenue or expenditure impact on the State as the Department of Law and Public Safety has indicated that the Victims of Crime Compensation Office was directed to implement these changes over a year ago when reviewing claims. The bill is intended to codify current practices in the New Jersey statutes.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill prohibits the Victims of Crime Compensation Office from denying a victim an award of compensation based solely on the grounds that there are certain outstanding warrants for the victim’s arrest or charges against the victim.

Specifically, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office is not to deny an order of payment of compensation based solely on the grounds that there is an outstanding court-ordered warrant for the arrest of a victim for a traffic-related violation, petty disorderly persons offense, disorderly persons offense, or a crime of the fourth degree, or that criminal charges are pending against the victim resulting from the filing of a criminal complaint or return of an indictment against the victim for a petty disorderly persons offense, disorderly persons offense, or crime of the fourth degree.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Department of Law and Public Safety indicated that N.J.A.C. 13:75-2.1(h) went into effect in November of 2021. The administrative code states that the Victims of Crime Compensation Office “shall not deny an award for compensation to a victim or claimant who has any non-indictable warrants or pending criminal charges. If a court-ordered bench warrant for the victim or claimant's arrest is issued for an indictable offense and remains active, the Office may make an award for compensation if there exists an emergent need. Compensation for emergency housing in order to protect the victim's physical safety shall never be denied due to a victim's criminal status.”

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

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Section: *Law and Public Safety*

Analyst: *Kristin Brunner Santos*
 Lead Fiscal Analyst

Approved: *Thomas Koenig*
 Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).