

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5135

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 23, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill Number 5135.

This bill prohibits the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) 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, under the provisions of this bill, the VCCO 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 fourth-degree crime, 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 fourth-degree crime.

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. This bill is intended to codify current practices in the New Jersey statutes.