

ASSEMBLY, No. 4805

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Benson,
Spearman, Assemblywomen Jones and Speight**

SYNOPSIS

Requires VCCO's victim counseling service to partner with trauma centers to refer certain victims to violence intervention programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/8/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning the victim counseling service and amending
2 P.L.1982, c.192.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1982, c.192 (C.52:4B-25) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. (1) The Victims of Crime Compensation **[Agency]**
10 **Office** shall establish a victim counseling service which shall
11 identify and develop sources to provide counseling to victims as
12 defined in P.L.1971, c.317. The service shall provide assistance to
13 victims without charge, **[which assistance shall include]** including
14 information and advice relative to filing a claim with the board,
15 emergency food and clothing, employment opportunities, referral to
16 other social service agencies, and in obtaining legal advice or
17 representation. The service shall be conducted at **[such]** locations
18 within the State as the agency deems advisable.

19 (2) The victim counseling service shall establish a partnership
20 with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the referral of
21 victims who are trauma patients injured in a violent manner to
22 violence intervention programs.

23 b. The **[agency]** office is authorized to appoint **[such]**
24 personnel for the service as may be necessary to carry out its
25 functions. Appointments made pursuant to this subsection shall be
26 within the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
27 agency for this purpose.

28 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.95).

29 d. The **[agency]** office may also identify and develop sources
30 to provide mental health counseling to victims, and provide victims
31 with **[such]** information as may be appropriate through its victim
32 counseling service.

33 (cf: P.L.2007, c.95, s.27)

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35 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
36 after enactment, provided however, the Commissioner of Health
37 and the Executive Director of the Victims of Crime Compensation
38 Office may take, prior to the effective date, any action needed to
39 effectuate the provisions of this act.

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STATEMENT

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44 Under current law, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office
45 maintains a victim counseling service which identifies and develops

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 sources to provide counseling to victims. The service provides this
2 assistance to victims without charge, including information and
3 advice on filing a claim with the Victims of Crime Compensation
4 Review Board, emergency food and clothing, employment
5 opportunities, referral to other social service agencies, and
6 obtaining legal advice or representation.

7 This bill requires the victim counseling service to establish a
8 partnership with State-designated trauma centers to provide for the
9 referral of victims who are trauma patients injured in a violent
10 manner to violence intervention programs.

11 The purpose of this bill is to provide for intervention in the
12 revolving door of gunshot injuries that is witnessed by many
13 hospitals, especially trauma centers. Patients who have gunshot
14 injuries are at very high risk of being violently reinjured and
15 perpetrating retaliatory violence themselves. Many die as a result
16 of the continuing cycle of violence. Hospital-based violence
17 intervention programs attempt to break these cycles of violence by
18 providing counseling and social services to patients recovering from
19 gunshot wounds and other violent injuries.

20 The bill also updates references to the Victims of Crime
21 Compensation Agency to the Victims of Crime Compensation
22 Office to conform to Reorganization Plan No. 001-2008.