

ASSEMBLY, No. 1951

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SERENA DIMASO

District 13 (Monmouth)

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District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires signs to be posted in emergency rooms regarding Victims of Crime Compensation Office.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the Victims of Crime Compensation Office and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. The Commissioner of Health, in collaboration with the
8 Attorney General, shall develop, prepare, and produce signs
9 displaying information relating to the Victims of Crime
10 Compensation Office.

11 b. The signs shall be clearly written and readily
12 comprehensible and shall provide information concerning:

13 (1) the services and benefits offered by the Victims of Crime
14 Compensation Office;

15 (2) contact information for the Victims of Crime Compensation
16 Office; and

17 (3) the procedures for filing a victims' compensation claim.

18 c. The Commissioner of Health shall require two signs, one in
19 English and one in Spanish, prepared in accordance with
20 subsections a. and b. of this section to be posted in a conspicuous
21 place in every emergency department of a general hospital and
22 satellite emergency department licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136
23 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

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25 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
26 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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31 This bill requires signs with information on compensation and
32 services available to certain crime victims through the Victims of
33 Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) to be displayed in all hospital
34 and satellite emergency departments in this State.

35 The VCCO provides compensation and services to certain crime
36 victims; surviving spouses, parents, or guardians of crime victims;
37 and people who were injured while trying to prevent a crime or
38 assist a police officer in making an arrest. Reportedly, the office
39 has distributed only a portion of State and federal funds available to
40 victims, and returned over \$380,000 of unspent federal victims'
41 assistance grant monies.

42 According to the sponsor, eligible victims and their families
43 often are unaware that they may apply for compensation from the
44 office. Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health is required, in
45 collaboration with the Attorney General, to develop, prepare, and
46 produce signs that display information relating to the VCCO. The
47 signs are required to contain information concerning the services

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1 and benefits offered by the office, contact information for the
2 office, and the procedures for filing a victims' compensation claim.
3 The Commissioner of Health is to require two signs to be posted,
4 one in English and one in Spanish, in a conspicuous place in every
5 emergency department of a general hospital and satellite emergency
6 department licensed in this State.