

SENATE, No. 367

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes certain entities to directly bill Victims of Crime Compensation Office for counseling services provided to victims of firearm and stabbing crimes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning victims of crime and supplementing Title 52 of
2 the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. In the event that a person is the victim of a firearm or
8 stabbing injury incurred during the course of an offense described
9 in subsection b. of section 11 of P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-11), and
10 the person receives counseling in connection with the injury, the
11 entity providing counseling services may directly bill the Victims of
12 Crime Compensation Office for the counseling services, provided
13 that:

14 (1) the counseling was provided by a licensed psychiatrist,
15 psychologist, social worker, or therapist, or by a peer or support
16 counselor or other individual authorized by the Victims of Crime
17 Compensation Office to provide such counseling while under the
18 supervision of a licensed professional;

19 (2) the person providing the counseling is affiliated with the
20 hospital where the victim received treatment for the injury or is
21 affiliated with a hospital-based or hospital-linked violence
22 intervention program recognized by the Victims of Crime
23 Compensation Office;

24 (3) the victim reported the injury to law enforcement within nine
25 months after its occurrence or reasonable discovery, except that,
26 notwithstanding the requirements of section 18 of P.L.1971, c.317
27 (C.52:4B-18), a report made after such time shall not be deemed to
28 bar a claim for compensation for counseling services if the victim
29 was admitted to the hospital for the injury and the victim consents
30 to the hospital releasing records of the admission to the Victims of
31 Crime Compensation Office;

32 (4) the victim has consented in writing to the entity directly
33 billing the Victims of Crime Compensation Office pursuant to this
34 section ; and

35 (5) the victim has filed a claim with the Victims of Crime
36 Compensation Office that is deemed eligible for counseling services
37 pursuant to P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.).

38 Compensation to be paid for counseling services provided under
39 this section shall be determined in accordance with the provisions
40 of subsection b. of this section and section 19 of P.L.1971, c.317
41 (C.52:4B-19).

42 b. The Victims of Crime Compensation Office shall establish
43 by regulation the maximum amount of compensation that may
44 directly billed pursuant to subsection a. of this section, which in any
45 case shall not exceed \$1,000 in connection with a given injury.

46 c. An entity that directly bills for counseling services pursuant
47 to subsection a. of this section shall not bill the victim or any other
48 person or entity in any amount for any counseling services for

1 which it received compensation from the Victims of Crime
2 Compensation Office pursuant to this section.

3
4 2. The Victims of Crime Compensation Office may, pursuant to
5 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
6 et seq.), adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
7 implement the provisions of this act.

8
9 3. This act shall take effect the first day of the fourth month
10 next following the date of enactment.

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13 STATEMENT

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15 This bill authorizes certain entities providing counseling services
16 to crime victims who suffered a firearm or stabbing injury to
17 directly bill the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) for
18 the provision of these services.

19 Under the bill, an entity providing counseling services may
20 directly bill the VCCO for the services if: 1) the counseling was
21 provided by a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, or
22 therapist, or by a peer or support counselor or other individual
23 authorized by the VCCO to provide counseling while under the
24 supervision of a licensed professional; 2) the person providing the
25 counseling is affiliated with the hospital where the victim was
26 treated for the injury or affiliated with a hospital-based or hospital-
27 linked violence intervention program recognized by the VCCO; 3)
28 the victim reported the injury to law enforcement within nine
29 months after its occurrence or reasonable discovery, except a report
30 made after that time is not to be deemed to bar a claim for these
31 services if the victim was admitted to the hospital for the injury and
32 the victim consents to the hospital releasing records of the
33 admission to the VCCO; 4) the victim consented in writing to the
34 entity directly billing the VCCO for the counseling services; and 5)
35 the victim has filed a claim with the VCCO.

36 The provisions of this bill require the VCCO to establish by
37 regulation the maximum amount of compensation that may be
38 directly billed, which is not to exceed \$1,000 in connection with a
39 given injury. Under the bill, an entity that directly bills and
40 receives compensation from the VCCO for counseling services is
41 prohibited from billing the victim or any other person or entity in
42 any amount for those same services.