

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Christie Oks bill expanding definition of a crime victim," NorthJersey.com, July 12, 2016

RWH/JA

P.L.2016, CHAPTER 15, *approved July 11, 2016*
Senate, No. 180 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning crime victims and amending P.L.1985, c.249.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 4 of P.L.1985, ¹c.1249 (C.52:4B-37) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 4. As used in this act, "victim" means a person who suffers
9 personal, physical or psychological injury or death or incurs loss of
10 or injury to personal or real property as a result of a crime
11 committed by an adult or an act of delinquency that would
12 constitute a crime if committed by an adult, committed against that
13 person. "Victim" also includes **[**the nearest relative of the victim of
14 a criminal homicide**]** the spouse, parent, legal guardian,
15 grandparent, child, sibling, domestic partner or civil union partner
16 of the decedent in the case of a criminal homicide or act of juvenile
17 delinquency ¹that would constitute a criminal homicide if
18 committed by an adult¹.

19 (cf: P.L.2001, c.407, s.2)

20

21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

22

23

24

25

26 _____
Revises definition of victim in "Crime Victim's Bill of Rights."

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SLP committee amendments adopted February 4, 2016.

SENATE, No. 180

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Revises definition of victim in “Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning crime victims and amending P.L.1985, c.249.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 4 of P.L.1985, 249 (C.52:4B-37) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 4. As used in this act, "victim" means a person who suffers
9 personal, physical or psychological injury or death or incurs loss of
10 or injury to personal or real property as a result of a crime
11 committed by an adult or an act of delinquency that would
12 constitute a crime if committed by an adult, committed against that
13 person. "Victim" also includes **the nearest relative of the victim of**
14 **a criminal homicide** the spouse, parent, legal guardian,
15 grandparent, child, sibling, domestic partner or civil union partner
16 of the decedent in the case of a criminal homicide or act of juvenile
17 delinquency.

18 (cf: P.L.2001, c.407, s.2)

19

20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 This bill revises the definition of "victim" under the "Crime
26 Victim's Bill of Rights."

27 Specifically, the bill changes the definition of "victim" to
28 correspond with the definition of "victim" in the Victim's Rights
29 Amendment under paragraph 22 of Article 1 of the New Jersey
30 Constitution.

31 The bill also revises this definition of "victim" to include a
32 domestic partner or civil union partner. Under the bill, domestic
33 partners and civil union partners would be entitled to protections
34 under the Crime Victim's Bill of Rights and to receive
35 compensation under the "Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of
36 1971," P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.).

37 According to the sponsor, the current practice of excluding
38 domestic and civil union partners from these protections and
39 benefits is unfair to the survivor and contrary to the intentions of
40 the victim.

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.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 180

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 22, 2016

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 180 (1R).

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 180 (1R) revises the definition of “victim” under the “Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights.”

Specifically, the amended bill changes the definition of “victim” to correspond with the definition of “victim” in the Victim’s Rights Amendment under paragraph 22 of Article I of the New Jersey Constitution. The definition of a victim in the Constitution includes the spouse, parent, legal guardian, grandparent, child, or sibling of the decedent in the case of a criminal homicide.

The amended bill also revises this definition of “victim” to include a domestic partner or civil union partner. Under the bill, domestic partners and civil union partners would be entitled to protections under the Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights and to receive compensation under the "Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of 1971," P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.).

According to the sponsor, the current practice of excluding domestic and civil union partners from these protections and benefits is unfair to the survivor and contrary to the intentions of the victim.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1421, also amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 180

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 28, 2016

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 180.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 180 revises the definition of “victim” under the “Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights.”

Specifically, the amended bill changes the definition of “victim” to correspond with the definition of “victim” in the Victim’s Rights Amendment under paragraph 22 of Article I of the New Jersey Constitution. The definition of a victim in the Constitution includes the spouse, parent, legal guardian, grandparent, child, or sibling of the decedent in the case of a criminal homicide.

The amended bill also revises this definition of “victim” to include a domestic partner or civil union partner. Under the bill, domestic partners and civil union partners would be entitled to protections under the Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights and to receive compensation under the "Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of 1971," P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.).

According to the sponsor, the current practice of excluding domestic and civil union partners from these protections and benefits is unfair to the survivor and contrary to the intentions of the victim.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

The committee made clarifying and technical amendments to the bill.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1421

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Revises definition of victim in “Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/23/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning crime victims and amending P.L.1985, c.249.

2

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

5

6 1. Section 4 of P.L.1985, 249 (C.52:4B-37) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 4. As used in this act, "victim" means a person who suffers
9 personal, physical or psychological injury or death or incurs loss of
10 or injury to personal or real property as a result of a crime
11 committed by an adult or an act of delinquency that would
12 constitute a crime if committed by an adult, committed against that
13 person. "Victim" also includes **the nearest relative of the victim of**
14 **a criminal homicide** the spouse, parent, legal guardian,
15 grandparent, child, sibling, domestic partner or civil union partner
16 of the decedent in the case of a criminal homicide or act of juvenile
17 delinquency.

18 (cf: P.L.2001, c.407, s.2)

19

20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 This bill revises the definition of "victim" under the "Crime
26 Victim's Bill of Rights."

27 Specifically, the bill changes the definition of "victim" to
28 correspond with the definition of "victim" in the Victim's Rights
29 Amendment under paragraph 22 of Article 1 of the New Jersey
30 Constitution.

31 The bill also revises this definition of "victim" to include a
32 domestic partner or civil union partner. Under the bill, domestic
33 partners and civil union partners would be entitled to protections
34 under the Crime Victim's Bill of Rights and to receive
35 compensation under the "Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of
36 1971," P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.).

37 According to the sponsor, the current practice of excluding
38 domestic and civil union partners from these protections and
39 benefits is unfair to the survivor and contrary to the intentions of
40 the victim.

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.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1421

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 22, 2016

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1421.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1421 revises the definition of “victim” under the “Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights.”

The amended bill changes the definition of “victim” to correspond with the definition of “victim” in the Victim’s Rights Amendment under paragraph 22 of Article 1 of the New Jersey Constitution and to make the definition consistent with current law.

The definition of a victim in the Constitution includes the spouse, parent, legal guardian, grandparent, child, or sibling of the decedent in the case of a criminal homicide. The amended bill reflects this definition of “victim” and also revises it to include a domestic partner or civil union partner.

Under the amended bill, domestic partners and civil union partners would be entitled to protections under the Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights and to receive compensation under the “Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of 1971,” P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.). According to the sponsor’s statement, the current practice of excluding domestic and civil union partners from these protections and benefits is unfair to the survivor and contrary to the intentions of the victim.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1421 is identical to Senate Bill No 180 (1R) which was also reported by the committee on this date.

This amended bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2016-2017 session pending technical review. As reported, the amended bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee made clarifying and technical amendments to the amended bill.

[Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[Press Releases](#) | [Public Addresses](#) | [Executive Orders](#) | [Press Kit](#) | [Reports](#)

[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2016

Governor Chris Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Saturday, July 9, 2016 Tags: [Bill Action](#)



Stay Connected
with Social Media

Stay Connected
with Email Alerts

LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.



Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie announced action that has been taken on the following legislation:

BILLS SIGNED:

S-180/A-1421 (Bateman, Weinberg/Johnson, Mukherji, Pinkin) – Revises definition of victim in "Crime Victim's Bill of Rights"

###

Press Contact:

609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) |

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000