## 52:4B-12.1

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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**LAWS OF**: 2016 **CHAPTER:** 97

NJSA: 52:4B-12.1 (Authorizes Victims of Crime Compensation Office to make payment for relocation

expenses of certain witnesses of crimes.)

BILL NO: A1424 (Substituted for S1050)

**SPONSOR(S)** Johnson and others

DATE INTRODUCED: January 27, 2016

**COMMITTEE:** ASSEMBLY: Appropriations

Law and Public Safety

**SENATE:** Budget and Appropriations

Law and Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

**DATE OF PASSAGE:** ASSEMBLY: May 26, 2016

**SENATE:** November 14, 2016

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** January 9, 2017

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced version of bill enacted)

A1424

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes Appropriations

Law and Public Safety

**SENATE:** Yes Budget and Appropriations

Law and Public Safety

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

S1050

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT**: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: No

**SENATE:** Yes Budget and Appropriations

Law and Public Safety

(continued)

| FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:  | No  |  |  |  |  |
|---|-----|--|--|--|--|
| LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:  | Yes |  |  |  |  |
| 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 <a href="mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org">mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org</a> |     |  |  |  |  |
| REPORTS:  | No  |  |  |  |  |
| HEARINGS:   | No  |  |  |  |  |
| NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:   | No  |  |  |  |  |
|   |     |  |  |  |  |

RWH/JA

## P.L.2016, CHAPTER 97, approved January 9, 2017 Assembly, No. 1424

| 1  | AN ACT concerning certain witnesses of crimes and supplementing     |
|----|---|
| 2  | Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.                                   |
| 3  |   |
| 4  | BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State       |
| 5  | of New Jersey:  |
| 6  |   |
| 7  | 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10 of P.L.1971,        |
| 8  | c.317 (C.52:4B-10) or the provisions of section 12 of P.L.1971,     |
| 9  | c.317 (C.52:4B-12), the Victims of Crime Compensation Office        |
| 10 | may, upon application, order the payment of relocation expenses for |
| 1  | a witness and the family of the witness.                            |
| 12 | As used in this section, "witness" means a person who witnessed     |
| 13 | the commission of any of the offenses listed under section 11 of    |
| 14 | P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-11) and who has been threatened as a       |
| 15 | result.   |
| 16 |   |
| 17 | 2. This act shall take effect immediately.                          |
| 18 |   |
| 19 |   |
| 20 |   |
| 21 |   |
| 22 | Authorizes Victims of Crime Compensation Office to make             |
| 23 | payment for relocation expenses of certain witnesses of crimes.     |
| 24 |   |
|    |   |

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1424

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON
District 37 (Bergen)
Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY
District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)
Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER
District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblyman Benson

## **SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes Victims of Crime Compensation Office to make payment for relocation expenses of certain witnesses of crimes.

## **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/5/2016)

## A1424 JOHNSON, WIMBERLY

2

AN ACT concerning certain witnesses of crimes and supplementing

Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

1

2

| 3  |   |
|----|---|
| 4  | BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State           |
| 5  | of New Jersey:  |
| 6  |   |
| 7  | 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10 of P.L.1971,            |
| 8  | c.317 (C.52:4B-10) or the provisions of section 12 of P.L.1971,         |
| 9  | c.317 (C.52:4B-12), the Victims of Crime Compensation Office            |
| 10 | may, upon application, order the payment of relocation expenses for     |
| 11 | a witness and the family of the witness.                                |
| 12 | As used in this section, "witness" means a person who witnessed         |
| 13 | the commission of any of the offenses listed under section 11 of        |
| 14 | P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-11) and who has been threatened as a           |
| 15 | result.   |
| 16 |   |
| 17 | 2. This act shall take effect immediately.                              |
| 18 |   |
| 19 |   |
| 20 | STATEMENT   |
| 21 |   |
| 22 | This bill authorizes the Victims of Crime Compensation Office           |
| 23 | (VCCO) to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of          |
| 24 | violent crimes.   |
| 25 | Under current law, the VCCO compensates victims of violent              |
| 26 | crimes for certain expenses incurred as a result of the crime committed |
| 27 | against them, including relocation expenses.                            |
| 28 | This bill authorizes the VCCO to also pay for the relocation            |
| 29 | expenses of witnesses of violent crimes. The bill defines a witness as  |
| 30 | a person who witnessed the commission of an enumerated violent          |
| 31 | crime, such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault,    |
| 32 | and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.        |
| 33 | Under current State regulations, the maximum amount the VCCO            |
| 34 | is permitted to pay for relocation costs is \$2,500.                    |

## ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1424

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 4, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1424.

This bill authorizes the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes.

Under current law, the VCCO compensates victims of violent crimes for certain expenses incurred as a result of the crime committed against them, including relocation expenses.

This bill authorizes the VCCO to also pay for the relocation expenses of witnesses of violent crimes. The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the commission of any of the crimes listed in section 11 of P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-11), which includes murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.

Under current State regulations, the maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay for relocation costs is \$2,500.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**:

The Office of Legislative Services finds the annual expenditure increases associated with this proposed legislation to be indeterminate. There are no data with which to evaluate the fiscal impact on the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) resulting from additional administrative expenses and the payment of additional witness relocation claims.

The maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay to victims for relocation costs is currently \$2,500. It is unclear whether the VCCO would pay the same amount for witness relocation expenses.

## ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1424

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2016

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1424.

Assembly Bill No. 1424 authorizes the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes.

Under current law, the VCCO compensates victims of violent crimes for certain expenses incurred as a result of the crime committed against them, including relocation expenses.

This bill authorizes the VCCO to also pay for the relocation expenses of witnesses of violent crimes. The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the commission of a violent crime enumerated in the bill, such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.

Under current State regulations, the maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay for relocation costs is \$2,500.

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.

## SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1424

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1424.

This bill authorizes the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) in the Department of Law and Public Safety to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes.

Under current law, the VCCO compensates victims of violent crimes for certain expenses incurred as a result of the crime committed against them, including relocation expenses.

The bill authorizes the VCCO to also pay for the relocation expenses of witnesses and the family of witnesses of violent crimes. The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the commission of an enumerated violent crime, such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.

Under current regulations, the maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay for relocation expenses is \$2,500.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1050, as also reported by the committee.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds the annual expenditure increases associated with this bill are indeterminate. There are no data available to evaluate the fiscal impact to the VCCO resulting from additional administrative expenses and the payment of additional witness relocation claims.

The OLS notes that the maximum amount the VCCO is currently permitted to pay to victims for relocation costs is \$2,500. However, it is unclear if the VCCO will pay up to the same maximum amount for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes.

## SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1424

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 20, 2016

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1424.

This bill authorizes the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes.

Under current law, the VCCO compensates victims of violent crimes for certain expenses incurred as a result of the crime committed against them, including relocation expenses.

The bill authorizes the VCCO to also pay for the relocation expenses of witnesses and the family of witnesses of violent crimes. The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the commission of an enumerated violent crime, such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.

Under current State regulations, the maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay for relocation expenses is \$2,500.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1050, also reported by the committee on this same date.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1424 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

**DATED: MARCH 31, 2016** 

### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Authorizes Victims of Crime Compensation Office to make payment

for relocation expenses of certain witnesses of crimes.

**Type of Impact:** Indeterminate annual expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety; Victims of Crime

Compensation Office.

## Office of Legislative Services Estimate

| Fiscal Impact       | Year 1 | <u>Year 2</u>                      | Year 3 |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------------------|--------|
| State Cost Increase |        | Indeterminate - See comments below |        |

- The Office of Legislative Services finds the annual expenditure increases associated with this proposed legislation to be indeterminate. There is no data with which to evaluate the fiscal impact on the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) resulting from additional administrative expenses and the payment of additional witness relocation claims.
- The maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay to victims for relocation costs is currently \$2,500. It is unclear whether the VCCO would pay the same amount for witness relocation expenses.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Assembly Bill No. 1424 of 2016 newly authorizes the VCCO to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes and their families.

The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the commission of an enumerated violent crime, such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.

Under current law, the VCCO only compensates victims of violent crimes for certain expenses incurred, including relocation expenses, as a result of the crime committed against them.



### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

## **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

The Office of Legislative Services finds the annual expenditure increases associated with this proposed legislation to be indeterminate. There is no data with which to evaluate the bill's impact on VCCO administrative expenses and witness relocation claim payments.

The VCCO is the payer of last resort and will award compensation for the balance of crime-related expenses not reimbursed first from other sources such as medical insurance or disability benefits. Currently, VCCO compensation benefits may be awarded up to a maximum of \$25,000 per claim (\$10,000 for crimes before December 5, 1982) pursuant to N.J.S.A.52:4B-18.1. The maximum award for relocation expenses is \$2,500 pursuant to N.J.A.C.13:75-4.7.

According to the VCCO's 2015 Annual Report, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, the VCCO awarded \$9,629,000 to victims of crime, received 3,596 applications, and processed 4,150 claims. In FY 2014, the VCCO awarded \$9,893,000 to victims of crime.

The VCCO is funded by penalties assessed in both Municipal and Superior Court. Additional funding comes from the Federal Victims of Crime Act compensation grant, State appropriation, and the Commissary Surcharge on all items purchased in the Department of Corrections facilities.

The current approved reimbursable items under the maximum claim of \$25,000 (\$10,000 for crimes before December 5, 1982) include the following:

- Medically related expenses;
- Loss of earnings in personal injury cases;
- Loss of support from the victim for dependents in homicide cases;
- Loss of earnings for surviving spouse whose earning capacity has been reduced in case of a victim's or spouse's death;
- Loss of support from the offender in domestic violence cases;
- Limited transportation costs;
- Mental health counseling for victim and immediate family members;
- Limited domestic service, child care, day care, and after school care costs up to \$6,500;
- Funeral allowances of up to \$5,000;
- Loss of prescription eyeglasses;
- Crime scene cleanup of up to \$3,000;
- Relocation expenses of up to \$2,500;
- Emergency financial assistance of up to \$1,500;
- For crimes committed after June 26, 1995, if a claimant is at least 60 years old or determined to be disabled and meets guidelines, the claimant may be eligible for reimbursement for up to \$200 in stolen cash resulting from an assault and robbery; and
- Legal fees are paid if awarded compensation. Attorneys are limited to receiving certain fees that are set by statute and by the VCCO.

3

Section: Law and Public Safety

Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Frank W. Haines III

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# **SENATE, No. 1050**

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Sponsored by: Senator LORETTA WEINBERG District 37 (Bergen) Senator BRIAN P. STACK District 33 (Hudson)

### **SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes Victims of Crime Compensation Office to make payment for relocation expenses of certain witnesses of crimes.

## **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/6/2016)

## **S1050** WEINBERG, STACK

2

| 1  | AN ACT concerning certain witnesses of crimes and supplementing       |
|----|---|
| 2  | Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.                                     |
| 3  |   |
| 4  | BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State         |
| 5  | of New Jersey:  |
| 6  |   |
| 7  | 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10 of P.L.1971,          |
| 8  | c.317 (C.52:4B-10) or the provisions of section 12 of P.L.1971,       |
| 9  | c.317 (C.52:4B-12), the Victims of Crime Compensation Office          |
| 10 | may, upon application, order the payment of relocation expenses for   |
| 11 | a witness and the family of the witness.                              |
| 12 | As used in this section, "witness" means a person who witnessed       |
| 13 | the commission of any of the offenses listed under section 11 of      |
| 14 | P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-11) and who has been threatened as a         |
| 15 | result.   |
| 16 |   |
| 17 | 2. This act shall take effect immediately.                            |
| 18 |   |
| 19 |   |
| 20 | STATEMENT   |
| 21 |   |
| 22 | This bill authorizes the Victims of Crime Compensation Office         |
| 23 | (VCCO) to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of        |
| 24 | violent crimes.   |
| 25 | Under current law, the VCCO is a State agency in the                  |
| 26 | Department of Law and Public Safety that compensates victims of       |
| 27 | violent crimes for certain expenses incurred as a result of the crime |
| 28 | committed against them, including relocation expenses.                |
| 29 | The bill authorizes the VCCO to also pay for the relocation           |
| 30 | expenses of witnesses and the family of witnesses of violent crimes.  |
| 31 | The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the              |
| 32 | commission of an enumerated violent crime, such as murder,            |
| 33 | manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been        |
| 34 | threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.                       |
| 35 | Under current regulations, the maximum amount the VCCO is             |
| 36 | permitted to pay for relocation expenses is \$2,500.                  |

## SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

## SENATE, No. 1050

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1050.

This bill authorizes the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) in the Department of Law and Public Safety to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes.

Under current law, the VCCO compensates victims of violent crimes for certain expenses incurred as a result of the crime committed against them, including relocation expenses.

The bill authorizes the VCCO to also pay for the relocation expenses of witnesses and the family of witnesses of violent crimes. The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the commission of an enumerated violent crime, such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.

Under current regulations, the maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay for relocation expenses is \$2,500.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1424, as also reported by the committee.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds the annual expenditure increases associated with this bill are indeterminate. There are no data available to evaluate the fiscal impact to the VCCO resulting from additional administrative expenses and the payment of additional witness relocation claims.

The OLS notes that the maximum amount the VCCO is currently permitted to pay to victims for relocation costs is \$2,500. However, it is unclear if the VCCO will pay up to the same maximum amount for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes.

## SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

## **SENATE, No. 1050**

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 20, 2016

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1050.

This bill authorizes the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes.

Under current law, the VCCO compensates victims of violent crimes for certain expenses incurred as a result of the crime committed against them, including relocation expenses.

The bill authorizes the VCCO to also pay for the relocation expenses of witnesses and the family of witnesses of violent crimes. The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the commission of an enumerated violent crime, such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.

Under current State regulations, the maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay for relocation expenses is \$2,500.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1424, also reported by the committee on this same date.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE SENATE, No. 1050 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

### **SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Authorizes Victims of Crime Compensation Office to make payment

for relocation expenses of certain witnesses of crimes.

**Type of Impact:** Indeterminate annual expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety; Victims of Crime

Compensation Office.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

| Fiscal Impact       | Year 1 | Year 2                      | Year 3   |
|---------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------|
| State Cost Increase |        | Indeterminate - See comment | ts below |

- The Office of Legislative Services finds the annual expenditure increases associated with this proposed legislation to be indeterminate. There is no data with which to evaluate the fiscal impact on the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO) resulting from additional administrative expenses and the payment of additional witness relocation claims.
- The maximum amount the VCCO is permitted to pay to victims for relocation costs is currently \$2,500. It is unclear whether the VCCO would pay the same amount for witness relocation expenses.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill No. 1050 of 2016 newly authorizes the VCCO to pay for relocation expenses incurred by witnesses of violent crimes and their families.

The bill defines a witness as a person who witnessed the commission of an enumerated violent crime, such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and sexual assault, and who has been threatened as a result of witnessing the crime.

Under current law, the VCCO only compensates victims of violent crimes for certain expenses incurred, including relocation expenses, as a result of the crime committed against them.



### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

None received.

## **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

The Office of Legislative Services finds the annual expenditure increases associated with this proposed legislation to be indeterminate. There is no data with which to evaluate the bill's impact on VCCO administrative expenses and witness relocation claim payments.

The VCCO is the payer of last resort and will award compensation for the balance of crime-related expenses not reimbursed first from other sources such as medical insurance or disability benefits. Currently, VCCO compensation benefits may be awarded up to a maximum of \$25,000 per claim (\$10,000 for crimes before December 5, 1982) pursuant to N.J.S.A.52:4B-18.1. The maximum award for relocation expenses is \$2,500 pursuant to N.J.A.C.13:75-4.7.

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The current approved reimbursable items under the maximum claim of \$25,000 (\$10,000 for crimes before December 5, 1982) include the following:

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- Loss of earnings in personal injury cases;
- Loss of support from the victim for dependents in homicide cases;
- Loss of earnings for surviving spouse whose earning capacity has been reduced in case of a victim's or spouse's death;
- Loss of support from the offender in domestic violence cases;
- Limited transportation costs;
- Mental health counseling for victim and immediate family members;
- Limited domestic service, child care, day care, and after school care costs up to \$6,500;
- Funeral allowances of up to \$5,000;
- Loss of prescription eyeglasses;
- Crime scene cleanup of up to \$3,000;
- Relocation expenses of up to \$2,500;
- Emergency financial assistance of up to \$1,500;
- For crimes committed after June 26, 1995, if a claimant is at least 60 years old or determined to be disabled and meets guidelines, the claimant may be eligible for reimbursement for up to \$200 in stolen cash resulting from an assault and robbery; and
- Legal fees are paid if awarded compensation. Attorneys are limited to receiving certain fees that are set by statute and by the VCCO.

3

Section: Law and Public Safety

Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Frank W. Haines III

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

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## Governor Chris Christie Signs Legislation Enhancing Protections For Domestic Violence Survivors

Monday, January 9, 2017

Tags: Bill Action

Home > Newsroom > Press Releases > 2017



Trenton, NJ - Governor Chris Christie today signed legislation to enhance protections for survivors of domestic violence

This new law will deter domestic violence, partly by increasing criminal penalties for offences including maximums for repeat offenders, as urged in Governor Christie's conditional vetoes of earlier versions of this legislation.

"This new law will help prevent domestic violence in New Jersey by enhancing criminal penalties and ensuring immediate compliance with stronger protective orders," Governor Christie said. "Survivors of domestic violence will be safer than ever before. I am proud we came together to enact this model legislation that is much more than just symbolic and is real reform that fulfills our primary responsibility of improving public safety in New Jersey."

This new law reinforces existing laws by creating a more in-depth process to ensure domestic violence offenders' firearms, identification cards and permits are confiscated as required while they are subject to restraining orders. It forces offenders to immediately upon sentencing – rather than after several days – arrange for the surrender of their firearms, identification cards and permits to a law enforcement officer. It also requires an order for a temporary or final restraining order to include notice to the defendant of the penalties for a violation of any provision of the order, including but not limited to the penalties for contempt of court and unlawful possession of a firearm or other weapon.

In addition to signing S-2483/A-4126 (Weinberg, Beck/Mosquera, Greenwald, Downey, Houghtaling, Munoz, Sumter, Benson, Lampitt, Wimberly) into law, the Governor also took action today on the following legislation:

#### **BILL SIGNINGS:**

S-909/A-2688 (Rice/Spencer, Pintor Marin) - Exempts person who remediates property in environmental opportunity zone from remediation funding source requirement

S-976/A-2332 (Gordon, Beck/Benson, Downey, Eustace) - Requires Public Health Council to promulgate rules and regulations for use of quality control programs in bio-analytical and clinical laboratories

S-981/A-2375 (Smith, Bateman, Greenstein/McKeon, Gusciora, Spencer) - Revises "Electronic Waste Management Act"

S-1489/A-1465 (Cruz-Perez, Cunningham/Lampitt, Mosquera, Wimberly, Downey, McKnight) - Ensures equal rights and opportunities for pregnant students in institutions of higher education

S-2098/A-3549 (Sacco, Pennacchio/Johnson, Zwicker, Wisniewski, Benson) - Exempts hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicles from certain labeling requirements

S-2463/A-3892 (Vitale, Rice, Allen/Vainieri Huttle, Lampitt, Mukherji) - Changes the time when child placement review hearings are initiated from 45 days to 60 days

S-2526/A-4105 (Diegnan, Thompson/Dancer, DeCroce, Clifton, Pinkin, Mukherji) - Designates portion of Interstate Highway Route 195 in Upper Freehold Township as "State Trooper Anthony A. Raspa Memorial Highway"

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#### **More Information**

SENATE BILL NO. 790 ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 312 S-2601/A-4207 (Pou, Beck/Vainieri Huttle, Holley, Downey, Mukherji, Muoio, Jasey) - Modifies scope of "Sexual Assault Survivor Protection Act of 2015" and enforcement of protective orders under that act

S-2708/A-4064 (Codey/Jasey, McKeon, Mukherji) - Authorizes State Treasurer to convey surplus real property known as Millburn Regional Day School in Millburn Township, Essex County, to Millburn Township Board of Education or to Millburn Township for \$3,550,000

SJR-29/AJR-58 (Weinberg/Vainieri Huttle, Jasey, Jones, McKnight, Phoebus, Wimberly) - Designates one night in November of each year as a "Night of Conversation" about drug and alcohol addiction

A-793/S-316 (Andrzejczak, Land, Taliaferro/Van Drew, Connors) - Requires Dept. of Agriculture and DEP to work with US Army Corps of Engineers to establish joint permit application process for aquaculture projects

A-794/S-317 (Andrzejczak, Land, Taliaferro, Van Drew, Connors) - Requires Dept. of Agriculture and DEP to adopt coordinated permit application and review program for aquaculture projects

A-1424/S-1050 (Johnson, Wimberly, Sumter/Weinberg, Stack) - Authorizes Victims of Crime Compensation Office to make payment for relocation expenses of certain witnesses of crimes

A-2106/S-2351 (Mukherji, Chaparro, Holley, Jimenez, Pintor Marin, Sumter, Wimberly/Ruiz, Madden) - Permits homeless to receive certified copy of birth certificate without fee

A-2107/S-2350 (Mukherji, Holley, Gusciora, Pintor Marin, Wimberly/Ruiz, Madden) - Exempts homeless from fee for non-driver identification cards

A-2158/S-2241 (Coughlin, Wolfe, Holley, McKnight/Diegnan) - Authorizes use of emergency reserve fund or proceeds from bonds issued by EDA to finance school security improvements

A-2763/S-1933 (Mazzeo, Mosquera, Mukherji, Andrzejczak, Land, Houghtaling/Sweeney, Stack) - Enters NJ in Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

A-3534/S-2086 (A.M. Bucco, Singleton, Webber, Benson, Moriarty/A.R. Bucco, Van Drew) - Permits authorities and local units operating water supply or sewerage facilities to waive, reduce, or defer sewerage and water service fees for deployed military personnel

#### **BILLS VETOED:**

S-790/A-3256 (Sarlo, O'Toole/Lagana, Benson, Sumter) – CONDITIONAL - Requires Police Training Commission to develop accelerated training course for certain county corrections officers

A-312/S-2557 (Singleton, Lampitt, Quijano, Pintor Marin, Wimberly, Downey/Cruz-Perez, Stack) – CONDITIONAL - Requires Division of Local Government Services to include certain property tax information on division's web page

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