

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3788

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires VCCO to provide certain emergency assistance and establish hotline.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring the Victims of Crimes Compensation Office to  
2 provide certain emergency assistance to victims of crime and  
3 establish a hotline, amending P.L.1981, c.256, and  
4 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

8  
9 1. (New section) a. The Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
10 shall make available, within the limits of the funds appropriated or  
11 otherwise made available to the office, emergency assistance to  
12 victims of crime or their family members. Upon the request of a  
13 victim or family member, a properly trained employee of the office  
14 shall be dispatched to the hospital or other place of emergency care  
15 to assist the victim or family member in obtaining resources from  
16 the office and completing the application process.

17 b. The office shall establish a mechanism, by means of a 24-  
18 hour toll-free telephone hotline and electronic mail, through which  
19 victims of crime or their family members may request emergency  
20 assistance required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

21 c. Information to be disseminated through the hotline or  
22 electronic mail to a victim or family member shall include but not  
23 be limited to:

24 (1) a summary of resources offered by the office to victims of  
25 crime;

26 (2) the availability of emergency awards pursuant to section 9 of  
27 P.L.1981, c.258 (C.52:4B-10.1); and

28 (3) the availability of an employee of the office to be dispatched  
29 to the location of the victim to provide emergency assistance  
30 pursuant to subsection a. of this section upon request.

31 d. The availability of the hotline and electronic mail  
32 established in this section shall be included in the information  
33 required to be disseminated pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1981, c.256  
34 (C.52:4B-22).

35  
36 2. Section 1 of P.L.1981, c.256 (C.52:4B-22) is amended to  
37 read as follows:

38 1. a. **【**Every State, county, and municipal police department and  
39 hospital or other place of emergency medical care shall have  
40 available and shall post in a public place information**】** The Victims  
41 of Crime Compensation Office shall supply information booklets,  
42 pamphlets, or other pertinent written information**【**, to be supplied  
43 by the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency,**】** relating to the  
44 availability of crime victims' compensation, including all necessary  
45 application blanks required to be filed with the **【agency】** office, and  
46 shall post or disseminate this information in a public place in every:

**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     (1) State, county, and municipal police department;  
2     (2) courtroom in each county courthouse and municipal court;  
3     and  
4     (3) hospital or other place of emergency care including, but not  
5     limited to, every emergency department of a general hospital and  
6     every satellite emergency department licensed pursuant to P.L.1971,  
7     c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

8     b. Included in the information supplied by the **【Victims of**  
9     **Crime Compensation Agency】** office shall be information for  
10    victims of sexual offenses. This information shall contain the  
11    location of rape crisis centers in all geographical areas throughout  
12    the State and shall instruct victims of sexual offenses that if a rape  
13    crisis center is not available in a victim's immediate geographical  
14    area, the victim may contact the appropriate county victim-witness  
15    coordinator appointed by the Chief of the Office of Victim-Witness  
16    Advocacy established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-39 et  
17    seq.). The information shall also provide that victims will not be  
18    charged any fee for services that are directly associated with a  
19    forensic sexual assault examination, including routine medical  
20    screening, medications for prophylaxis of sexually transmitted  
21    infections, pregnancy tests, emergency contraception, supplies,  
22    equipment, and use of space.

23    Unless the victim requires immediate medical attention, this  
24    information shall be personally conveyed to the victim of a sexual  
25    offense by a representative of the hospital or place of emergency  
26    care before a medical examination of the victim is conducted, or by  
27    a representative of the police department before the victim's  
28    statement is taken, to afford the victim the opportunity to arrange to  
29    have assistance from the rape crisis center or county victim-witness  
30    coordinator during these procedures. Hospitals shall be held  
31    harmless from suits emanating from a hospital's carrying out the  
32    obligation to convey information to victims of sexual offenses.

33    "Rape crisis center" means an office, institution or center  
34    offering assistance to victims of sexual offenses through crisis  
35    intervention, medical and legal information, and follow-up  
36    counseling.

37    c. Every police department shall, upon the filing of a report of  
38    a violent crime, make available to any victim information  
39    concerning crime victims' compensation.

40    d. The office shall include in the information supplied to victims  
41    of crime pursuant to this section the availability of emergency  
42    assistance from an employee of the office at the hospital or other  
43    place of emergency care and the hotline and electronic mail  
44    established for the purpose of requesting this assistance pursuant to  
45    section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
46    as this bill).

47    (cf: P.L.2011, c.106, s.1)

1       3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
2 month next following enactment.

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4  
5                               STATEMENT

6  
7       This bill requires the Victims of Crime Compensation Office  
8 (VCCO) in the Department of Public Safety to offer emergency  
9 assistance to victims of crime and their family members.

10       Specifically, upon the request of a victim or family member, the  
11 bill requires a properly trained employee of the VCCO to be  
12 dispatched to the hospital or other emergency care facility to assist  
13 the victim or family member in obtaining resources from the VCCO  
14 and completing the application process.

15       To facilitate this emergency assistance, the bill requires the  
16 VCCO to maintain a 24-hour toll-free hotline and electronic mail to  
17 receive requests for assistance from victims of crime or their family  
18 members. The information to be disseminated through the hotline  
19 or electronic mail is to include: a summary of resources offered by  
20 the VCCO; the availability of emergency awards; and the  
21 availability of a trained VCCO employee to be dispatched to the  
22 location of the victim or family member to provide emergency  
23 assistance.

24       Information concerning the availability of the hotline and the  
25 electronic mail is to be made available at all State, county, and  
26 municipal police departments; courtrooms in county courthouses  
27 and municipal courts; and hospitals or other places of emergency  
28 care.