

SENATE, No. 4023

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

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
10 Office shall make available, within the limits of the funds
11 appropriated or otherwise made available to the office, emergency
12 assistance to victims of crime or their family members. Upon the
13 request of a victim or family member, a properly trained employee
14 of the office shall be dispatched to the hospital or other place of
15 emergency care to assist the victim or family member in obtaining
16 resources from 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**
39 **and 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-
17 39 et seq.). The information shall also provide that victims will not
18 be 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
41 victims of crime pursuant to this section the availability of
42 emergency assistance from an employee of the office at the hospital
43 or other 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)

