

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2773-E

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Bell, Robert B.

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; amount of award.

5. Summary: The engrossed bill removes the current \$600 limit placed on the amount that may be awarded to a crime victim for total loss of weekly earnings. The bill also increases from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the maximum amount a claimant may be awarded from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund for expenses directly related to funeral or burial costs and increases from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum aggregate award received by a claimant as a result of an injury or death.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate – see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation would increase the maximum amount provided for a funeral or burial from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and increase the maximum amount awarded for claims resulting in the injury or death of a victim of crime from \$25,000 to \$35,000. According to the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC), the state agency that manages the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF), the proposed legislation is not expected to have a significant fiscal impact on the CICF's reserve.

The federal Department of Justice Victims of Crime Act grant funds 60 percent of the amount awarded to victims of crime through the CICF, with the remaining 40 percent (approximately \$328,000 annually) of the CICF funded through court fees, assessments on offenders, and restitution.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The amendments to the legislation reinstated the provisions awarding 66-2/3 percent of a crime victim's average weekly wages resulting from incapacity.