

# 1998 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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## HOUSE BILL NO. 87

Offered January 14, 1998

Prefiled January 13, 1998

*A BILL for the relief of Gracie Calloway.*

Patrons—Thomas and Woodrum

Referred to Committee on Claims

Whereas, in January of 1995 Barbara Hardy, the daughter of Gracie Calloway, died in an apartment fire which occurred in the City of Roanoke; and

Whereas, the fire marshal for the City of Roanoke in 1995 ruled that the fire appeared to have been slow-burning and of a type consistent with fires caused by dropped cigarettes, and was therefore an accident; and

Whereas, a subsequent investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) determined the fire was caused by a Molotov cocktail thrown through a window of the residence and therefore Hardy was murdered; and

Whereas, the fire marshal has deferred to the finding of the ATF on the cause of the fire; and

Whereas, Ms. Calloway filed a claim with the Crime Victims' Compensation Program for reimbursement of funeral expenses; and

Whereas, the Crime Victims' Compensation Program denied the claim because it was not received within two years after the occurrence; and

Whereas, because of the fire marshal's initial determination that the fire was an accident, Ms. Calloway was ineligible for the victim compensation at the time of Ms. Hardy's death; and

Whereas, Ms. Calloway has incurred funeral expenses totaling \$2,079.67; and

Whereas, Gracie Calloway has no means to recover the expenses she incurred except by action of this body; now, therefore,

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. § 1. That there is hereby appropriated from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund the sum of \$2,079.67 for the relief of Gracie Calloway to be paid by check issued by the State Treasurer on warrant of the Comptroller to Gracie Calloway upon release by her of all claims against the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities, officers, or employees in connection with, or arising out of, the aforesaid occurrence.**

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