

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2773

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input 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: Increases the amount that may be awarded to a crime victim for total loss of earnings resulting from incapacity from 66 2/3 percent to 100 percent of such victim's average weekly wages and removes the current \$600 limit placed on such award. 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: Preliminary – see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: 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 proposed legislation would increase the amount awarded for lost earnings from 66 2/3 percent to 100 percent; 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 VWC, since 2008, only seven maximum awards have been awarded from the CICF.

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: None.