

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 512

(Senators Gladden and Muse)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

**Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Membership - Family Member of
Homicide Victim**

This bill specifies that one of the five members of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) must be a family member of a homicide victim.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. CICB is already in compliance with the bill's requirement. The need for any future appointments to the board to remain in compliance with the bill can be accommodated with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: CICB in the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services consists of five members. No more than four may belong to the same political party and one must have been admitted to practice law in the State for at least five years immediately preceding the appointment.

The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services must appoint the members of the board, with the approval of the Governor and the advice and consent of the Senate. The term of a board member is five years. A member who is appointed to fill a vacancy, occurring other than by expiration of a term, serves for the rest of the unexpired term.

With the approval of the Governor, the Secretary is required to designate one member of the board as chairman, who serves in that capacity at the pleasure of the Secretary.

Each board member is entitled to (1) compensation in accordance with the State budget and (2) reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) is a special fund that provides financial assistance for innocent victims of crime. CICB may compensate victims who suffer physical or psychological injury for their medical expenses and loss of earnings, but only if the injury is a direct result of a criminal or delinquent offense. In cases of homicide, the board may assist with funeral expenses and loss of support on the part of the victim's dependents. A claimant seeking compensation from CICF must file a claim no later than three years after the occurrence of the crime or delinquent act or the death of the victim. In a case of child abuse, a claimant may file a claim up to three years after the claimant knew or should have known of the abuse. A person who commits the crime or delinquent act that is the basis of a claim, or an accomplice of the person, is not eligible to receive an award. Funding for grant awards made from CICF to victims of crime totals \$4.0 million in the fiscal 2015 budget.

Background: The fiscal 2015 budget provides \$500,000 for a new victims of crime grant program in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) to assist families of homicide victims. GOCCP is not involved in the operations of CICB.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services,
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2014
ncs/lgc Revised - Updated Budget Information - May 6, 2014

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510