

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 61

(Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee)(By Request -
Departmental - Office of Crime Control and Prevention)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Claims - Electronic Filing

This departmental bill authorizes the electronic filing of a claim to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB), in the manner provided under procedures established by CICB, for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: CICF, within the Victim Services Unit of GOCCP, is a special fund that provides financial assistance for innocent victims of crime. CICB may compensate victims who suffer physical or psychological injury for the victim's 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. Funding for the assistance is generated by CICF from fees assessed by circuit and District Courts. CICF is also supplemented by federal funds.

Claims to CICF must be filed in the CICB office in person or by mail.

Background: Chapter 515 of 2016 (the Justice Reinvestment Act) required GOCCP to study restitution and make recommendations concerning the restitution process, including determining which State unit should assume the duties regarding collection of restitution. In the December 2016 [Report on Restitution Study](#), GOCCP recommended that a new unit called the Victims' Services Unit be formed within GOCCP to collect data, develop best practices, and coordinate with State and local entities regarding restitution. Chapter 422 of 2018 established a Victim Services Unit in GOCCP and transferred the oversight functions and operations relating to CICB and CICF from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to GOCCP.

State Expenditures: GOCCP advises that it initially plans to implement the bill by allowing filing by email and fax, which has no impact on State expenditures. In the future, GOCCP may consider moving to a web-based application system. In addition, GOCCP advises that the set up and customization cost for a web-based application system is \$24,900 with an additional annual cost of \$5,900 for web hosting and support. GOCCP further advises that the creation of such system will likely be done in conjunction with other scheduled information technology upgrades and can be handled with existing resources at that time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 21, 2019
an/lgc Third Reader - February 1, 2019

Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

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

ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Criminal Injuries Compensation Board – Claims – Electronic Filing

BILL NUMBER: SB0061

PREPARED BY: Don Hogan

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS