

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1039 (Delegate Grosfeld. *et al.*)

Judiciary

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund - Time Periods - Compensation

This bill increases, from \$2,000 to \$25,000, the maximum award for psychiatric, psychological, or mental health counseling that may be paid by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. The bill also establishes 10 days as the time frame within which the board must notify a claimant after receipt of a claim. The bill also establishes other specified time frames relating to the need for additional material, review and evaluation processes, and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to modify, affirm, or reverse a decision of the board.

The bill prohibits the board from requiring that a claimant face a judgment against future earnings in making determinations of serious financial hardship.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The board receives fewer than 10 claims annually in which compensation is sought for psychiatric, psychological, or mental health counseling. The compensation requests for these claims tend to be in the range of \$2,000 to \$4,000. Assuming that the number of claims involving such expenditures remains relatively constant, this bill is estimated to increase annual expenditures from the fund by \$50,000. The bill's procedural changes can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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

Injuries Compensation Board), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 1998

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