

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2105--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 23, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. MEEKS, KELLES, CRUZ, TAYLOR, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, CLARK, SIMON, JACKSON, JEAN-PIERRE, GALLAGHER, HEVESI, ZINERMAN, DARLING, GIBBS, PAULIN, FALL, DE LOS SANTOS, BURGOS, L. ROSENTHAL, McMAHON, CUNNINGHAM, WALKER, STIRPE, ANDERSON, DICKENS, CARROLL, WEPRIN, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, AUBRY, REYES, LUCAS, RIVERA, PRETLOW, OTIS, PEOPLES-STOKES, KIM, BENEDETTO, ARDILA, BORES, LAVINE, O'DONNELL, EPSTEIN, RAGA, SIMONE, GLICK, STECK, SEAWRIGHT, FORREST, SHRESTHA, SHIMSKY, BURDICK, ZEBROWSKI, THIELE, SEPTIMO, ZACCARO, EACHUS -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. HYNDMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to expanding eligibility for victims and survivors of crime to access victim compensation funds by removing the mandatory law enforcement reporting requirement, providing alternative forms of evidence that would show that a qualifying crime was committed and the confidentiality of certain records

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 3 of section 621 of the execu-  
2 tive law, as amended by chapter 710 of the laws of 1996, is amended to  
3 read as follows:  
4 (a) an act committed in New York state which would, if committed by a  
5 mentally competent criminally responsible adult, who has no legal  
6 exemption or defense, constitute a crime as defined in and proscribed by  
7 law, regardless of whether any suspect was arrested, charged, appre-  
8 hended or prosecuted for the commission of the act or whether the claim-  
9 ant has interacted with a criminal justice agency investigating such  
10 act; or

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 625 of the executive law, as amended by  
2 section 10 of part A-1 of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 2. A claim must be filed by the claimant not later than [~~one-year~~]  
5 three years after the occurrence or discovery of the crime upon which  
6 such claim is based, [~~one-year~~] three years after a court finds a  
7 lawsuit to be frivolous, or not later than [~~one-year~~] three years after  
8 the death of the victim, provided, however, that upon good cause shown,  
9 the office may extend the time for filing. The office shall extend the  
10 time for filing where the claimant received no notice pursuant to  
11 section six hundred twenty-five-a of this article and had no knowledge  
12 of eligibility pursuant to section six hundred twenty-four of this arti-  
13 cle.

14 § 3. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 1 of section 627 of the executive  
15 law, as added by section 18 of part A-1 of chapter 56 of the laws of  
16 2010, is amended to read as follows:

17 (c) the investigation and determination of claims regardless of wheth-  
18 er the alleged criminal has been arrested, charged, apprehended or pros-  
19 ecuted for or convicted of any crime based upon the same incident, or  
20 has been acquitted, or found not guilty of the crime in question owing  
21 to criminal irresponsibility or other legal exemption;

22 § 4. Subdivision 1 of section 631 of the executive law, as separately  
23 amended by chapters 189 and 295 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read  
24 as follows:

25 1. No award shall be made unless the office finds that: (a) a crime  
26 [~~was committed,~~] has occurred as indicated by the applicant's record or  
27 supporting documentation; (b) such crime directly resulted in personal  
28 physical injury to or the exacerbation of a preexisting disability, or  
29 condition, or death of, the victim[~~;~~]; and (c) either: (i) criminal  
30 justice agency records show that such crime was [promptly] reported to  
31 the proper authorities[~~;~~ and in no case may an award be made where the  
32 criminal justice agency records show that such report was made more than  
33 one week after the occurrence of such crime unless the office, for good  
34 cause shown, finds the delay to have been justified. Notwithstanding the  
35 foregoing provisions of this subdivision, in cases involving an alleged  
36 sex offense as contained in article one hundred thirty of the penal law  
37 or incest as defined in section 255.25, 255.26 or 255.27 of the penal  
38 law or labor trafficking as defined in section 135.35 of the penal law  
39 or sex trafficking as defined in sections 230.34 and 230.34-a of the  
40 penal law or an offense chargeable as a family offense as described in  
41 section eight hundred twelve of the family court act or section 530.11  
42 of the criminal procedure law, the criminal justice agency report need  
43 only be made] within a reasonable time considering all the circum-  
44 stances, including the victim's physical, emotional and mental condition  
45 and family situation[~~;~~]; or (ii) evidence is provided to show that such  
46 crime occurred. Such evidence shall include, but is not limited to, one  
47 or more of the following:

48 (A) a written statement provided by a city or state-contracted victim  
49 services provider who has provided services to the victim of the crime,  
50 or other eligible claimants as identified in section six hundred twen-  
51 ty-four of this article, in response to the impact of the qualifying  
52 crime; or

53 (B) a temporary or permanent restraining order or protective order  
54 issued by a court to protect or separate the victim, or other eligible  
55 claimants as identified in section six hundred twenty-four of this arti-  
56 cle, from the person who is responsible for the qualifying crime.

1 For the purposes of this subdivision, "criminal justice agency" shall  
2 include, but not be limited to, a police department, a district attor-  
3 ney's office, and any other governmental agency having responsibility  
4 for the enforcement of the criminal laws of the state provided, however,  
5 that in cases involving such sex offense or family offense a criminal  
6 justice agency shall also mean a family court, a governmental agency  
7 responsible for child and/or adult protective services pursuant to title  
8 six of article six of the social services law and/or title one of arti-  
9 cle nine-B of the social services law, and any medical facility estab-  
10 lished under the laws of the state that provides a forensic physical  
11 examination for victims of rape and sexual assault.

12 § 5. Subdivision 4 of section 625 of the executive law, as amended by  
13 section 10 of part A-1 of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 4. Upon the filing of a claim pursuant to this article, the office  
16 shall promptly notify the district attorney of the county wherein the  
17 crime is alleged to have occurred. Except in cases where the alleged  
18 crime was not reported to a criminal justice agency, as indicated in  
19 subdivision one of section six hundred thirty-one of this article. If,  
20 within ten days after such notification, such district attorney advises  
21 the office that a criminal prosecution is pending upon the same alleged  
22 crime and requests that action by the office be deferred, the office  
23 shall defer all proceedings under this article until such time as such  
24 criminal prosecution has been concluded and shall so notify such  
25 district attorney and the claimant. When such criminal prosecution has  
26 been concluded, such district attorney shall promptly so notify the  
27 office. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the office  
28 to grant emergency awards pursuant to section six hundred thirty of this  
29 article.

30 § 6. Subdivision 1 of section 633 of the executive law, as amended by  
31 section 25 of part A-1 of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, is amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 1. Records maintained by the office and proceedings by the office  
34 based thereon regarding a claim submitted by a victim or a claimant  
35 shall be deemed confidential and shall not be shared with any government  
36 or private entity, with the following exceptions:

37 (a) requests for information based [~~upon~~] on legitimate criminal  
38 justice purposes as determined by the agency, provided that, in such  
39 case, the office shall furnish only that portion of the information that  
40 is legally required;

41 (b) judicial subpoenas;

42 (c) requests for information by the victim or claimant or his or her  
43 authorized representative; or

44 (d) for purposes necessary and proper for the administration of this  
45 article.

46 § 7. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a  
47 law.