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H.676

Introduced by Representatives Grad of Moretown and Morris of Bennington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crime victims compensation

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to ensure the  
Victims Compensation Program has access to law enforcement records  
necessary to process crime victims' claims for financial assistance.

An act relating to Victims Compensation Board access to law enforcement  
records

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 5353 is amended to read:

§ 5353. APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION

\* \* \*

(j) Upon request to a State law enforcement agency, the Victims  
Compensation Board shall be entitled to copies of incident reports, affidavits,  
or other documents that provide a narrative account of an alleged crime, where  
the alleged victim has filed a claim for victims' compensation.

1 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 5358a is amended to read:

2 § 5358a. APPLICATION INFORMATION; CONFIDENTIALITY

3 (a) All documents reviewed by the Victims Compensation Board for  
4 purposes of approving an application for compensation shall be confidential  
5 and shall not be disclosed without the consent of the victim except as provided  
6 in this section and subsection 7043(c) of this title.

7 (b) For the purpose of requesting restitution, the amount of assistance  
8 provided by the Victims Compensation Board shall be established by copies of  
9 bills submitted to the Victims Compensation Board reflecting the amount paid  
10 by the Board and stating that the services for which payment was made were  
11 for uninsured pecuniary losses.

12 (c) The following shall be confidential and shall be redacted by the Victims  
13 Compensation Board for any purpose including restitution: the victim's  
14 residential address, telephone number, and other contact information and the  
15 victim's Social Security number. In cases involving stalking, sexual offenses,  
16 and domestic violence, the following information shall also be confidential and  
17 shall not be disclosed by the Victims Compensation Board for any purpose,  
18 including restitution, absent a court order:

19 (1) the victim's employer's name, telephone number, address, or any  
20 other contact information; and

1           (2) the victim's medical or mental health provider's name, telephone  
2           number, address, or any other contact information.

3           (d) Records provided by a law enforcement agency to the Victims  
4           Compensation Board in accordance with subsection 5353(j) of this title shall  
5           not be disclosed by the Victims Compensation Board for any purpose,  
6           including restitution, absent a court order.

7           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.