

Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review of the Victims Compensation Board

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.

11 times a year. Agendas and Minutes can be found on our website:
<http://www.ccvv.vermont.gov>

2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

Appointing authority is the Governor. All members serve a three year term. Members are entitled to a \$50 per diem plus mileage.

Robert Paolini: term 5/31/19-5/31/22. Receives per diem but not mileage

Margaret Joyal: term 5/31/18-5/31/21. Receives stipend and mileage.

Richard Katzman: 5/31/17-5/31/20. Is serving pending renewal. Elected to not receive stipend or mileage.

Susan Ide: 5/31/19-5/31/22. Receives stipend and mileage.

Jerome O'Neill: 5/31/19-5/31/22. Does not receive stipend but does receive mileage.

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.

13 V.S.A. § 5352)

Victims Compensation Board

(a) The Victims Compensation Board is established for the purpose of awarding compensation to victims of crimes and to their dependents. The Board shall consist of five members appointed by the Governor as follows:

one physician licensed to practice in this State, one attorney admitted to practice in this State, one individual who is a crime victim, and two public members. Each member shall serve for a term of three years. A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(b) The Board shall function independently. In order to maximize eligibility for federal reimbursement, the Center for Crime Victim Services shall coordinate the Victims Compensation Program with other programs compensating victims of crime, including offender restitution and counseling costs for victims of child sexual abuse.

(c) The Board shall meet at least monthly to review and determine applications. Members of the Board are entitled to compensation and expenses as provided under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

(d) The Board shall adopt rules under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including rules relating to evaluation and determination of awards under this chapter.

(e) The Board may employ such staff as needed to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Staff retained by the Board shall not be considered State employees. (Added 1989, No. 214 (Adj. Sess.), § 1; amended 1991, No. 263 (Adj. Sess.), § 3; 2015, No. 97 (Adj. Sess.), § 77.)

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

YES. The Board oversees the Center for Crime Victim Services and decides on crime victim compensation.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The Board performs extremely well and is responsive to the needs of those who suffer from criminal acts of others.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

I doubt it.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

None do.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded? The VOCA COMP Federal grant pays the board's stipends and travel. FY20 expenses were \$1650 for stipends and \$387.84 for travel.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

Yes as of July 1, 2020 we are asked to provide an annual report. See: **No. 127 (H.558). Crimes and criminal procedure; Victims Compensation Board; Open Meeting Law An act relating to exempting the Victims Compensation Board from the Open Meeting Law**

This act exempts certain meetings of the Victims Compensation Board from the Open Meeting Law and requires the Board to hold an annual meeting to present information and data concerning victims compensation and offender restitution programs.

11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission?
The Board performs extremely well and is cost efficient.