

1 H.553

2 Introduced by Representatives Rachelson of Burlington, Dolan of Essex, and

3 Grad of Moretown

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Crimes and criminal procedure; crime victims; Victims Compensation

7 Program

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make

9 domestic partners of crime victims eligible for compensation from the Victims

10 Compensation Program for loss of support.

11 An act relating to eligibility of domestic partners for reimbursement from  
12 the Victims Compensation Program

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

14 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 5351 is amended to read:

15 § 5351. DEFINITIONS

16 As used in this chapter:

17 \* \* \*

(2) “Dependent” means the victim’s spouse, domestic partner, or a  
person who is legally dependent for support upon a victim. *To qualify as a  
domestic partner, a couple shall share a residence for at least six months prior*

*to applying; be 18 years of age or older; not be married to anyone; and ~~not be~~  
~~related by blood and, therefore,~~ prohibited from legally marrying one another  
by 15 V.S.A. § 1a.*

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Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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This act shall take effect on passage.

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