



Maine Legislature
2 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333

**Working Group to Recommend any Changes to Eligibility Standards for
Expenditures from the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund**

Background:

In 1992, the Legislature established the Maine Crime Victims' Compensation Fund and Victims' Compensation Board to reimburse eligible funeral costs and physical and mental healthcare expenses of victims and their families resulting from violent crime that are not covered by insurance. These reimbursement benefits have a lifetime cap of \$15,000.

The Maine Mass Violence Care Fund ("MMVCF"), created in 2024, operates as an extension of the Maine Victims' Compensation Program. The MMVCF is only for victims of mass violence crimes, three years after the date of incident, once a mass violence claimant exceeds the \$15,000 cap. The intention of the Fund is to ensure that mass violence victims have long-term access to financial support to pay uninsured expenses for crime-related medical care or mental health counseling.

The Legislature initially invested \$5 million to establish the MMVCF, and the law allows the Maine Victims' Compensation Program to only use the income generated from that initial investment to pay MMVCF claims. This approach will ensure that funding remains available for the future.

Victims of the mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine whose Maine Victims' Compensation Program claims have exceeded the \$15,000 cap will be able to access the new fund beginning on October 26, 2026. The Office of the Treasurer projects that the amount available for claims as of October 20, 2026, will be approximately \$360,171.91.

Purpose:

The Working Group to Recommend any Changes to Eligibility Standards for Expenditures from the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund (established in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part N, section 4) is charged with making recommendations to the Victims' Compensation Board to establish benefit caps for the MMVCF that will support ongoing victims' uninsured medical and mental health counseling costs while ensuring the Fund remains healthy for the future.

The working group is directed by law to issue recommendations regarding:

- A. Gaps in payments for physical and behavioral health care services for victims of mass violence crimes;

- B. Methods of investing the funds in the fund to ensure sustainable annual financial returns;
- C. Options for determining eligibility for distributions from the fund, including any changes regarding parameters for:
 - (1) Who is considered a victim of a mass violence crime;
 - (2) Which health care costs are considered eligible expenses;
 - (3) What constitutes a mass violence crime; and
- D. Anything else the working group determines necessary to carry out the purposes of the fund.

Upcoming Meetings:

First Meeting of the Working Group

Monday, October 27th 1-2pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom & Livestream

Public Listening Session

Monday, November 17th 5:30-7pm

Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon St, Lewiston, ME

Second Meeting of the Working Group

Friday, November 21st 12-1:30pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom & Livestream

Membership:

A member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;	Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair
A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;	Rep. Kristen Cloutier, Chair* Rep. Julia McCabe, Chair **
The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;	Cara Cookson
The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the Commissioner's designee;	Kristen McAuley
The Treasurer of State or the Treasurer of State's designee;	Treasurer Joseph Perry
The Chair of the Victims' Compensation Board or the Chair's designee.	Dr. Amy Madden

Staff: Annina V. Breen & Patrick Rankin

Interested Parties:

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*Chair through October 31st

**Chair after October 31st