



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1550

LR 1986(02)

An Act To Create a Victims' Compensation Fund for Victims of Property Crimes

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	Projections FY 2021-22	Projections FY 2022-23
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$83,211
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$115,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill creates the Victims Property Compensation Fund, which will be overseen by the existing Victims Compensation Board, to compensate victims of crimes in which the victims suffered property losses. Revenue will come from a \$10 assessment on any person convicted of murder or a Class A, B or C crime, and a \$5 assessment on any person convicted of a Class D or E crime. Over the past three years there were an average of 4,346 Class A, B and C convictions annually and 37,185 Class D and E convictions annually. It is estimated that \$230,000 in revenues will be generated annually for the fund beginning January 1 2020.

The judicial branch has indicated assessing an additional fee would require one-time technology related modifications to its current revenue collection software. The bill includes one-time General Fund appropriations to the judicial branch of \$10,000 in fiscal year 2020. Any ongoing costs related to assessing the additional fee can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has indicated it would require an additional Research Assistant MSEA-B Position to support the expanded functions of the Victims Compensation Board. As the bill authorizes the board to begin paying claims in fiscal year 2022-23, the position would not be needed until fiscal year 2022-23. Also, the bill adds two additional members to the Victims Compensation Board beginning in fiscal year 2022-23 and members are entitled to per diem plus compensation for actual and necessary expenses, estimated to be \$1,320 annually. Accordingly, the OAG will require ongoing allocations of approximately \$83,000 for personal services and other costs beginning in fiscal year 2022-23.