

SENATE No. 1598

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to victims of violent crimes..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 2(f) of chapter 258C of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

2 SECTION 2. Section 3(b) of chapter 258C of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006
3 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection 1 in its entirety inserting in place
4 thereof the following paragraphs:-

5 (1)(A) The maximum award or compensation for funeral and burial expenses shall be
6 \$6,500. A legal guardian, dependent or other family member of the victim or a person who
7 actually incurs funeral and burial expenses directly related to the death of a victim shall be
8 eligible for compensation for such funeral and burial expenses.

9 (B) The maximum award or compensation for expenses other than funeral and burial
10 expenses associated with the interment of a victim whose death is the direct result of a crime
11 shall be \$800. For purposes of this subsection compensable expenses shall include, but not be
12 limited to, transportation of the victim to the location of interment; travel of a legal guardian or
13 family member to accompany the victim to the location of interment; memorial markers at the

14 location of interment or other associated expenses as determined by the program director in
15 accordance with section 4 of this chapter.

16 SECTION 3. Section 3(b)(2)(A) of chapter 258C of the General Laws, as so appearing,
17 is hereby amended, in lines 22 and 25, by striking out the word “F,” and inserting in place
18 thereof the following word:- G.

19 SECTION 4. Section 3(b)(2)(C) of chapter 258C of the General Laws, as so appearing,
20 is hereby amended, in line 40, by inserting after the word “victim,” the following words:- parent
21 or legal guardian of a victim who is a minor in accordance with section 4 of this chapter.

22 SECTION 5. Section 3(b)(2) of chapter 258C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
23 hereby amended by inserting, after the last paragraph, the following subsections:-

24 Expenses incurred for professional crime scene clean up services necessary as the direct
25 result of the commission of a crime at a private residence or in a motor vehicle that is owned or
26 leased by a victim, family member or other dependent shall be compensable in accordance with
27 this chapter, provided, however, that the maximum amount of compensation shall not exceed
28 \$1,500. For purposes of this section, “crime scene clean up” shall mean the removal of, or the
29 attempted removal of, blood or other stains that are the direct result of the commission of a crime
30 or other dirt and debris caused by the processing of the crime scene, but shall not include the
31 replacement or repair of property damaged during the commission of the crime, in accordance
32 with section 4 of this chapter.

33 A victim shall be eligible for compensation for the reasonable replacement costs of
34 clothing and bedding seized as evidence or rendered unusable as the result of a criminal

35 investigation that is the direct result of a crime provided, however, that the maximum
36 compensable amount shall not exceed \$250.

37 A victim, or a family member residing with the victim at the time a crime is committed,
38 shall be eligible for compensation for the costs associated with the implementation of security
39 measures, provided, however, that the maximum compensable amount shall not exceed \$500.

40 For purposes of this section, “security measures” shall mean the replacement, repair or
41 installation of locks, windows or other security devices deemed to be reasonably necessary for
42 the promotion of the victim’s safety by the program director after taking into consideration the
43 nature of the crime in accordance with section 4 of this chapter.

44 SECTION 6. Section 8 of chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended, in line 1,
45 by striking out the word “fifteen,” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- 20.

46 SECTION 7. Section 8 of chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby further amended, in
47 line 12, by striking out the word “twenty,” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- 30.

48 SECTION 8. Section 9 of chapter 258C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking
49 out, in line 7, the word “twenty,” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- 30.

50 SECTION 9. Section 10 of chapter 258C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
51 amended by inserting, in line 6, after the word “insurance,” the following words:- including, but
52 not limited to, homeowner’s insurance, renter’s insurance, automobile insurance.