

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1826

**TITLE:** An Act relative to the transfer of the Victim Compensation Fund

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Kathleen R. LaNatra

**COSPONSOR(S):** A.G. Andrea J. Campbell                      Sen. Michael O. Moore  
Rep. Michelle L. Badger

**HEARING DATE:** June 3, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 11K of Chapter 12 of the General Laws establishes within the Attorney General department a division of Victim Compensation and Assistance to administer the provisions of Chapter 258C.

Section 4 of Chapter 258B of the General Laws creates the Victim and Witness Assistance Board which has the authority to appoint an executive director and other staff and has the responsibility to: (i) oversee the implementation and operation of programs under the chapter; (ii) promulgate rules for the program plans and annual reports required; (iii) create and make available materials explaining victim and witness rights and services; (iv) assist hospitals and law enforcement in understanding, posting and disseminating notices of the rights afforded victims and witness of crime; and (v) assume management and administration of the Garden of Peace.

Chapter 258C of the General Laws outlines the standards, process and rules for the compensation of victims of violent crimes in the Commonwealth. The Victim Compensation and Assistance division of the Attorney General is given the authority to administer the provisions of the Chapter including designating a program director and other staff, promulgating rules and regulations and apply for and receive funds.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Repeals Section 11K of Chapter 12.

Section 2 - Adds to Section 4 of Chapter 258B that the Board has the responsibility to administer the provisions of Chapter 258C through the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance and that its executive director has the authority to promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to carry out Chapter 258C.

Sections 3 through 6 – Amend Section 1 of Chapter 258C to add a definition for “Agency” which is the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, remove the definition of “Department”, replace the definition of “Division” with a definition for “Director” which is the executive director of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance and update gendered pronouns in the section.

Sections 7 through 11 – Update Sections 2 and 3 of Chapter 258C pursuant to the changes proposed in this bill and removes gendered pronouns.

Section 12 – Strikes and replaces Section 4 of Chapter 258C with language providing that the provisions of the Chapter will be administered by the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance which has the authority to designate a director and other staff, promulgating rules and regulations and apply for and receive funds.

Sections 13 through 30 – Update Sections 5 to 12 of Chapter 258C pursuant to the changes proposed in this bill and to remove gendered pronouns.

Section 31 – Adds a new Section 15 to Chapter 258C making all agency records and information obtained in connection with a claim for crime victim compensation confidential and privileged. Disclosure is only permitted: (i) by the agency for processing a claim or responding to a court action; (ii) for information exchanged between the claimant, their authorized representative and the agency; or (iii) upon a court order.

Section 32 – The Act shall take effect 180 days after passage.