

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1731

TITLE: An Act amending the victim of violent crime compensation law

SPONSOR: Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon

CO-SPONSOR: None

HEARING DATE: June 17, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1533 (2023-2024) H3311 (2019-2020)
H1619 (2021-2022) H829 (2017-2018)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 2 of Chapter 258C of the General Laws permits compensation to be paid under the chapter only if: (i) the division of victim compensation and assistance finds that a crime was committed and directly resulted in physical or psychological injury to, or death of, the victim; (ii) the claimant shows the crime was reported in a timely matter to law enforcement or that there was good cause for the delay in reporting; and (iii) the claimant cooperated with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of the crime. Compensation will not be provided if it would unjustly benefit the offender or may be reduced if the victim provoked or contributed to the injuries. Reasonable attorneys' fees may also be paid by the division.

Section 5 of Chapter 258C requires a claim for compensation under the chapter be filed within 3 years of the date of the crime.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 – Adds language to Section 2 of Chapter 258C that a claimant who was sexually abused as a minor may show good cause to delay reporting to law enforcement by submitting a report of a mental health professional stating that the claimant failed to make the connection between the sexual abuse and harm caused.

Section 2 – Adds language to Section 5 of Chapter 258C that in the case of a claimant who was sexually abused as a minor the three years deadline will begin when the claiming first makes a connection between the sexual abuse and the resulting harm. The report of a mental health professional stating an opinion as to the date the claimant made this connection and that the claimant failed to make the connection between the sexual abuse and harm caused.