

HOUSE No. 2634

By Mr. Morrissey of Boston, petition of Gerald J. Morrissey for legislation to establish a criminal injuries compensation commission to determine payment for injuries received by victims of crimes. Ways and Means (Joint).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Six.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION COMMISSION.

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 17 of chapter 6 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by inserting after the words "the World War II
3 memorial commission", added by section 1 of chapter 83 of the
4 acts of 1965, the words: — the criminal injuries compensation
5 commission.

1 SECTION 2. There shall be a commission to be known as the
2 criminal injuries compensation commission. Such commission
3 shall consist of three members, to be known as commissioners,
4 who shall be appointed by the governor, and one of whom shall
5 be designated as chairman by the governor. The term of office
6 of each member of the commission shall be for three years; pro-
7 vided, however, that of the commissioners first appointed, one
8 shall be for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, and
9 one for a term of three years. Any member chosen to fill a
10 vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be
11 appointed for the unexpired term of the member who he is to
12 succeed. Two members of the commission shall constitute a
13 quorum for the purpose of conducting the business thereof. The
14 commission may employ such employees and assistants as may
15 be necessary to carry out its work. The commissioners shall

16 receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed for any neces-
17 sary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

18 Any person who is a victim of a crime of violence may apply
19 to the commission for payment of compensation for injuries re-
20 ceived as a result of such crime. In making compensation the
21 commission shall take into consideration the extent of the in-
22 juries received, the amount of medical and hospital expenses
23 incurred and the loss of wages, if any. In order to be eligible for
24 compensation the applicant shall have reported to the police
25 without delay the circumstances attending the injury and he
26 shall submit to medical examination. If a person dies as a result
27 of such injuries, no compensation shall be made to his estate,
28 but the commission will entertain claims by his spouse or de-
29 pendants.

30 The commission is hereby authorized to make rules and regu-
31 lations to carry out the provisions of this section.