
By Mr. Reilly, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 280) of Martin T. Reilly for legislation relative to payments to victims of violent crimes. Criminal Justice.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PAYMENTS 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 of chapter 258A of the General Laws,
2 inserted by section 1 of chapter 852 of the acts of 1967, is
3 hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and insert-
4 ing in place thereof the following sentence: — Such claims
5 shall be brought in a district court within the territorial juris-
6 diction in which the claimant lives or, in the case of a person
7 not resident within the commonwealth, within the territorial
8 jurisdiction in which the crime alleged as the basis of such
9 claim was committed.

1 SECTION 2. The second paragraph of section 5 of said chap-
2 ter 258A, as most recently amended by section 3 of chapter
3 459 of the acts of 1980, is hereby further amended by strik-
4 ing out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the
5 following sentence: — In no case may compensation be paid if
6 the police records show that such report was made more than
7 one week after the occurrence of such crime, except in the
8 case of rape, unless the court finds said report to the police to
9 have been delayed for good cause.

1 SECTION 3. The fourth paragraph of said section 5 of said
2 chapter 258A, inserted by section 1 of chapter 852 of the acts
3 of 1967, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence
4 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence: — Any
5 compensation for loss of earnings or support shall not exceed

6 an amount to be determined by the secretary of administra-
7 tion and finance, the secretary of public safety and the at-
8 torney general.

1 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any provisions of special or
2 General Law to the contrary, any fines assessed against a per-
3 son convicted of a crime as defined in section one of chapter
4 two hundred and fifty-eight A of the General Laws shall be
5 deposited in a special fund called Fund for Victims of Violent
6 Crime to be established and maintained by the state treasurer.
7 Said special fund shall be used for the payment to a victim as
8 defined in said chapter two hundred and fifty-eight A; pro-
9 vided, however, that if such fund has insufficient balances to
10 make such payments, such payments shall be made from funds
11 appropriated for such payments.