

By Mr. Buglione of Methuen, petition of Nicholas J. Buglione and Andrew J. Rogers, Jr., for legislation to provide that unpaid bills for necessary medical or other services rendered to or for the victims of violent crimes be deducted from awards of compensation and paid directly to the persons or institutions rendering such services. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT UNPAID BILLS FOR NECESSARY MEDICAL OR OTHER SERVICES RENDERED TO OR FOR THE VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME BE DEDUCTED FROM AN AWARD OF COMPENSATION AND PAID DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON OR INSTITUTION RENDERING SUCH SERVICE-

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. Chapter 258A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out Section 3 and inserting in place thereof
3 the following new section: —

4 Section 3. Except as hereinafter provided, the following per-
5 sons shall be eligible for compensation pursuant to this chapter: —
6 (a) a victim of a crime;
7 (b) in the case of the death of the victim as a direct result of the
8 crime, a dependent of the victim;

9 (c) a person or institution providing necessary medical or other
10 services to or for a victim to the extent that the charges for such
11 services which remain unpaid shall be deducted from an award of
12 compensation to a claimant and paid directly to such person or
13 institution.

14 An offender or an accomplice of an offender, a member of the
15 family of the offender, a person living with the offender or a person

16 maintaining sexual relations with the offender shall in no case be
17 eligible to receive compensation with respect to a crime committed
18 by the offender.

1 SECTION 2. Section 4 of said Chapter 258A is hereby amend-
2 ed by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof
3 the following sentence: —

4 A claim for compensation may be filed by a victim, the depend-
5 ent of a deceased victim, or if he is a minor or is incompetent, by his
6 parent or guardian.

1 SECTION 3. The first paragraph of Section 6 of said Chapter
2 258A is hereby amended by striking out the third, fourth and fifth
3 sentences in said paragraph and inserting in place thereof the
4 following sentences: —

5 All decisions of the court shall be in writing setting forth the
6 name of the claimant, the amount of the compensation, the rea-
7 sons for the decision, and the court shall determine the amounts
8 owed for necessary medical or other services rendered to or for the
9 victim which remain unpaid and shall include in the decision an
10 order providing that said amounts, if any, be deducted from the
11 amount of compensation awarded to the claimant and paid
12 directly to the person or institution supplying such services and
13 that the balance be paid to the claimant. The clerk of court shall
14 immediately notify the claimant of the decision and shall forward
15 to the state treasurer a certified copy of the decision. The state
16 treasurer without further authorization shall, subject to appropri-
17 ation, pay the amounts as ordered by the court.