

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 250

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to crime victims' compensation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Articles 56B.003(2), (6), (7), and (10), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

(2) "Claimant" means any of the following individuals, other than a service provider, who is entitled to file or has filed a claim for compensation under this chapter:

(A) an authorized individual acting on behalf of a victim;

(B) an individual who legally assumes the obligation or who voluntarily pays medical or burial expenses of a victim incurred as a result of the criminally injurious conduct of another;

(C) a dependent of a victim who died as a result of the criminally injurious conduct;

(D) a [~~an immediate~~] family member or [~~a~~] household member of a victim who, as a result of the criminally injurious conduct:

(i) requires psychiatric care or counseling;

(ii) incurs expenses for traveling to and attending a deceased victim's funeral; or

(iii) suffers wage loss from bereavement

1 leave taken in connection with the death of the victim; or

2 (E) an authorized individual acting on behalf of  
3 a child described by Paragraph (C) or (D).

4 (6) "Family violence" has the meaning assigned by  
5 Section 71.004 [~~71.004(1)~~], Family Code.

6 (7) "Household member" means an individual who~~+~~  
7 [~~(A) is related by consanguinity or affinity to~~  
8 ~~the victim; and~~

9 [~~(B)~~] resided in the same permanent household as  
10 the victim at the time that the criminally injurious conduct  
11 occurred.

12 (10) "Pecuniary loss" means the amount of the expense  
13 reasonably and necessarily incurred as a result of personal injury  
14 or death for:

15 (A) medical, hospital, nursing, or psychiatric  
16 care or counseling, or physical therapy;

17 (B) actual loss of past earnings and anticipated  
18 loss of future earnings and necessary travel expenses because of:

19 (i) a disability resulting from the  
20 personal injury;

21 (ii) the receipt of medically indicated  
22 services related to the disability; or

23 (iii) participation in or attendance at  
24 investigative, prosecutorial, or judicial processes or any  
25 postconviction or postadjudication proceeding relating to  
26 criminally injurious conduct;

27 (C) care of a child or dependent, including

1 specialized care for a child who is a victim;

2 (D) funeral and burial expenses, including, for a  
3 ~~[an immediate]~~ family member or ~~[a]~~ household member of the victim,  
4 the necessary expenses of traveling to and attending the funeral;

5 (E) loss of support to a dependent, consistent  
6 with Article 56B.057(b)(5);

7 (F) reasonable and necessary costs of cleaning  
8 the crime scene;

9 (G) reasonable replacement costs for clothing,  
10 bedding, or property of the victim seized as evidence or rendered  
11 unusable as a result of the criminal investigation;

12 (H) reasonable and necessary costs for  
13 relocation and housing rental assistance payments as provided by  
14 Articles ~~[Article]~~ 56B.106(c) and (c-1);

15 (I) for a ~~[an immediate]~~ family member or ~~[a]~~  
16 household member of a deceased victim, bereavement leave ~~[of not~~  
17 ~~more than 10 work days]~~; and

18 (J) reasonable and necessary costs of traveling  
19 to and from a place of execution to witness the execution, including  
20 ~~[one night's]~~ lodging near the place where the execution is  
21 conducted.

22 SECTION 2. Subdivision (8), Article 56B.003, Code of  
23 Criminal Procedure, is redesignated as Subdivision (5-a), Article  
24 56B.003, Code of Criminal Procedure, and amended to read as  
25 follows:

26 (5-a) "Family ~~[(8) "Immediate family]~~ member" means an  
27 individual who is related to a victim ~~[within the second degree]~~ by

1 consanguinity or affinity.

2 SECTION 3. Article 56B.057(d), Code of Criminal Procedure,  
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (d) Except as provided by rules adopted by the attorney  
5 general to prevent the unjust enrichment of an offender, the  
6 attorney general may not deny an award otherwise payable to a  
7 claimant or victim because the claimant or victim:

8 (1) is a [~~an immediate~~] family member of the offender;  
9 or

10 (2) resides in the same household as the offender.

11 SECTION 4. Article 56B.106, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
12 amended by amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsections  
13 (c-1), (c-2), and (c-3) to read as follows:

14 (c) A victim of stalking, family violence, or trafficking of  
15 persons, a victim of sexual assault who is assaulted in the victim's  
16 place of residence, or a child who is a victim of a murder attempt in  
17 the child's place of residence may receive a one-time assistance  
18 payment for [~~in an amount not to exceed~~]:

19 (1) [~~\$2,000 to be used for~~] relocation expenses,  
20 including expenses for rental deposit, utility connections,  
21 expenses relating to moving belongings, motor vehicle mileage  
22 expenses, temporary or emergency lodging, and for an out-of-state  
23 move, expenses for transportation, lodging, and meals; and

24 (2) [~~\$1,800 to be used for~~] housing rental expenses.

25 (c-1) Except as provided by Subsection (c-2), a victim other  
26 than a victim described by Subsection (c), a dependent of any  
27 victim, or a family member or household member of any victim may

1 receive a one-time assistance payment for:

2 (1) relocation expenses, including expenses for  
3 rental deposit, utility connections, expenses relating to moving  
4 belongings, motor vehicle mileage expenses, temporary or emergency  
5 lodging, and for an out-of-state move, expenses for transportation,  
6 lodging, and meals; and

7 (2) housing rental expenses.

8 (c-2) The attorney general may not award more than two  
9 assistance payments under Subsection (c-1) with respect to the same  
10 criminally injurious conduct, regardless of whether the payments  
11 are awarded to the victim or other claimants, unless the attorney  
12 general determines that it is necessary to award more than two  
13 assistance payments because of the extraordinary health or safety  
14 needs of the victim or claimants.

15 (c-3) The attorney general by rule may establish a  
16 limitation on the amount of an award a victim or claimant may  
17 receive under Subsection (c) or (c-1), except that the limitation  
18 for:

19 (1) relocation expenses as provided by Subsection  
20 (c)(1) or (c-1)(1) may not be less than \$2,000; and

21 (2) housing rental expenses as provided by Subsection  
22 (c)(2) or (c-1)(2) may not be less than \$1,800.

23 (d) The attorney general by rule may establish a limitation  
24 on an award a [An immediate] family member or household member of a  
25 deceased victim may [not] receive for [more than \$1,000 in] lost  
26 wages as a result of bereavement leave taken by the family or  
27 household member, except that the limit may not be less than the

1 lesser of:

2 (1) \$1,000; or

3 (2) an amount equal to 10 days of lost wages.

4 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
5 to compensation for criminally injurious conduct occurring on or  
6 after the effective date of this Act. Compensation for criminally  
7 injurious conduct occurring before the effective date of this Act  
8 is governed by the law in effect on the date the conduct occurred,  
9 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
10 purposes of this section, criminally injurious conduct occurred  
11 before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense  
12 underlying the conduct occurred before that date.

13 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.