

By: Gutierrez

S.B. No. 1710

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the School Violence Victims'
Compensation Fund

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

SECTION 1. Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding to
Chapter 403, subchapter U to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER U. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 403.601. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the
School Violence Victims' Compensation Act.

Sec. 403.602. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The
legislature recognizes that it shall be the duty of the legislature
to establish and make suitable provision for the support and
maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools. The
legislature further finds that a public school system in which
Texas students are not safe from gun violence is not efficient nor
suitable. The legislature also finds that there is a public
calamity in relation to gun violence in Texas public schools
necessitating a grant of aid to the students, teachers, and
educational support personnel that have been victims of gun
violence.

(b) It is the legislature's intent that the compensation
provided to the innocent victims of the violent gun-related crime
that have occurred and will occur at Texas public schools
ameliorates the pain caused by those attacks.

1 Sec. 406.603. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

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

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

7 (B) a dependent of a victim who died or was
8 injured as a result of the criminally injurious conduct;

9 (C) an immediate family member or a household
10 member of a victim;

11 (D) an authorized individual acting on behalf of
12 a child described by Paragraph (B) or (C).

13 (2) "Household member" means an individual who:

14 (A) is related by consanguinity or affinity to
15 the victim or is the legal guardian of the victim; and

16 (B) resided in the same permanent household as
17 the victim at the time that the criminally injurious conduct
18 occurred.

19 (4) "Immediate family member" means an individual who
20 is related to a victim within the second degree by consanguinity or
21 affinity or is a legal guardian of the victim.

22 (5) "Victim" means an individual who suffered personal
23 injury or death as a result of a gun-related incident in a Texas
24 public school since January 1, 2018.

25 Sec. 403.604 TYPES OF ASSISTANCE. (a) On receiving and
26 reviewing an application for compensation under Section [403.605](#),
27 the Comptroller shall authorize a cash payment within 60 days to a

1 victim, a victim's immediate family, or a member of the household of
2 the victim if the victim was seriously physically injured,
3 murdered, or suffering from mental or emotional disability on
4 account of a gun-related incident in a Texas public school.

5 (b) After certifying the veracity of the application, the
6 Comptroller shall authorize the following cash payment to a victim,
7 a victim's immediate family, or a member of the household of the
8 victim:

9 (1) \$1,000,000 dollars per deceased victim payable to
10 the victim's immediate surviving family or members of the
11 household;

12 (2) \$500,000 dollars per seriously physically injured
13 victim payable to the victim;

14 (3) \$100,000 dollars per mental or emotional
15 disability victim payable to the victim; and

16 (4) \$50,000 per physically injured victim payable to
17 the victim.

18 (c) Upon reviewing the totality of factual circumstances
19 surrounding the application, the Comptroller may divide the award
20 between members of the immediate family, household, or legal
21 guardians.

22 Sec. 403.605. APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION. (a) An
23 applicant for compensation under this chapter must apply in writing
24 on a form prescribed by the Comptroller.

25 (b) An application for compensation under this chapter must
26 be verified and contain:

27 (1) the date on which the injurious conduct occurred;

1 (2) a description of the nature and circumstances of
2 the injurious conduct;

3 (3) a statement indicating the extent of the
4 psychological or physical injury caused by the injurious conduct,
5 including any disability resulting from the injury incurred;

6 (4) an authorization permitting the board to verify
7 the contents of the application; and

8 (5) the relationship by consanguinity, affinity, or
9 legal guardianship to any victim of a gun-related incident in a
10 Texas public school.

11 Sec. 403.606. REVIEW OF APPLICATION. (a) The Comptroller
12 shall review each application for compensation described by Section
13 403.605 to ensure the application is complete.

14 (b) The Comptroller shall return to the claimant or victim
15 any application that is incomplete and shall provide a brief
16 statement showing the additional information required. Not later
17 than the 30th day after the date of receiving a returned
18 application, a claimant or victim may provide the additional
19 information.

20 (c) The Comptroller may investigate an application.

21 (d) As part of the Comptroller's review and verification
22 duties under this subchapter, the Comptroller may investigate the
23 application for truthfulness.

24 Sec. 403.607. METHOD OF PAYMENT. The Comptroller shall pay
25 an award in a lump sum.

26 SECTION 2. This compensation shall be cumulative of all
27 other remedies, benefits, or compensation provided for by law.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.