

Title 52.
Chapter 4B.
(Rename)
Crime Victim
Assistance
§§ 1-8
C.52:4B-60.4
to 52:4B-60.11

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 167, *approved October 17, 2023*
Assembly, No. 4978 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim
2 Assistance in the Department of Law and Public Safety, ¹and¹
3 amending and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes ¹**],**
4 and making an appropriation¹.
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:
8

9 1. (New section) There is hereby established in the Department
10 of Law and Public Safety the Division of Violence Intervention and
11 Victim Assistance. The division shall be under the immediate
12 supervision of an executive director who shall be appointed by and
13 serve at the pleasure of the Attorney General and who shall
14 administer the work of the division under the direction and
15 supervision of the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall
16 fix the compensation of the executive director within the limits of
17 available appropriations.
18

19 2. (New section) The Attorney General shall organize the work
20 of the division in bureaus and other organizational units as the
21 Attorney General may determine to be necessary for efficient and
22 effective operation and shall assign to the division employees in the
23 Department of Law and Public Safety as may be necessary to assist
24 the executive director in the performance of the executive director's
25 duties. ¹All employees of the division, except for secretarial and
26 clerical personnel, shall be in the unclassified service of the Civil
27 Service.¹
28

29 3. (New section) a. The Division of Violence Intervention and
30 Victim Assistance shall oversee and coordinate in the Department
31 of Law and Public Safety all matters related to violence intervention
32 and prevention and victim assistance and services performed by or
33 on behalf of the Attorney General, including but not limited to:

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHS committee amendments adopted February 16, 2023.

- 1 (1) directly providing, within the limits of resources made
2 available for this purpose, victim and violence intervention and
3 prevention services, and coordinating the delivery of the services
4 provided through the various divisions in the Department of Law
5 and Public Safety;
- 6 (2) reviewing and overseeing the department's provision of
7 services to victims of crime, human trafficking, and violence, and
8 services to communities for the prevention of violence;
- 9 (3) monitoring and administering the department's violence
10 intervention and prevention programs, initiatives, and services
11 intended to reduce the cycle of violence, and advocating to advance
12 the objectives of these measures;
- 13 (4) developing and implementing measures and strategies to
14 better address the needs of underserved victim populations;
- 15 (5) assisting, supporting, consulting on and participating in the
16 development and implementation of initiatives, projects, and
17 strategies to address issues related to violence reduction and victim
18 support, including but not limited to the development of a State
19 infrastructure for victim assistance and violence intervention and
20 prevention services, formation of a Statewide strategy for the
21 growth and standardization of services, and directing efforts to
22 enhance community engagement and program accountability;
- 23 (6) serving as a resource center and facilitator to provide
24 technical assistance and training with respect to victim assistance
25 and violence intervention and prevention services for the purpose of
26 improving access to available services, promoting awareness of
27 available resources and models of services, expanding the scope and
28 availability of these services, and developing new preventative
29 strategies;
- 30 (7) building partnerships between, coordinating with, and
31 supporting initiatives to improve public health and safety involving
32 law enforcement entities and victim assistance and violence
33 intervention and prevention service providers;
- 34 (8) developing intergovernmental partnerships and engaging in
35 outreach and collaboration efforts with other State, county, and
36 local government agencies on policy and programmatic issues,
37 reforms and initiatives related to violence intervention, and victim
38 assistance;
- 39 (9) safeguarding victims' rights and ensuring appropriate
40 consideration of victims' rights and interests in the performance of
41 public safety, law enforcement, and prosecutorial functions by other
42 divisions in the department;
- 43 (10) performing, arranging for, or coordinating community
44 support and assistance programs and services in the aftermath of
45 crimes involving multiple victims such as mass shootings, school
46 shootings, or acts of terrorism; providing assistance to other
47 governmental entities in their response to these crimes; and serving

1 as a repository of resources to assist communities in preparing for
2 these events;

3 (11) developing grant applications and applying for available
4 grant funding for violence intervention and victim assistance
5 projects and programs on behalf of the department;

6 (12) receiving and processing, or monitoring the receipt and
7 processing of, applications from State and local government
8 agencies and nonprofit organizations for violence intervention and
9 prevention and victim service or assistance project grants that may
10 be made available from or through the department, including but
11 not limited to the promulgation of standards and procedures related
12 to the solicitation, qualification, and award of grants; and

13 (13) performing other functions as the Attorney General may
14 prescribe.

15 b. In carrying out its responsibilities, the division shall take
16 steps as it deems appropriate in furtherance of the following
17 objectives:

18 (1) to promote a trauma-informed approach in the provision of
19 victim and violence intervention and prevention services by the
20 department, other State agencies, and local and county governments
21 providing these services;

22 (2) to provide and coordinate the provision of services to victims
23 of crime and violence at the State, county, and local levels in order
24 to ameliorate the impact of crime and violence and to prevent future
25 violence;

26 (3) to promote access to and deployment of services to
27 vulnerable and less accessible victim populations, including but not
28 limited to promoting policies that recognize that an individual's
29 status as a prior offender should not be grounds for denial of
30 services that could prevent future violence;

31 (4) to serve as a point of contact and engagement for community
32 members, stakeholders, crime survivors, former clients, and justice-
33 involved persons to offer input, local knowledge, and collaborative
34 viewpoints for the purpose of improving services and influencing
35 policymaking;

36 (5) to support and advocate for policies that promote the hiring
37 and recruitment of culturally competent individuals in the field of
38 victim assistance and violence intervention and prevention services;

39 (6) to promote policies and practices that encourage the use of
40 peer support, such as credible messengers, individuals with lived
41 experience, and trauma survivors in the provision of services;

42 (7) to identify best practices and evidence-based interventions in
43 the provision of victim and violence intervention and prevention
44 services and promote these measures within the department, other
45 State agencies, and local county governments that provide these
46 services through methods including, but not limited to, training, and
47 reporting; and

1 (8) to provide or direct resources and assistance to communities
2 and victims to address and ameliorate the impact of hate crimes or
3 acts of violence which are motivated by or evince a discriminatory
4 intent.

5
6 4. (New section) a. All the functions, powers, and duties of the
7 Victims of Crime Compensation Office in the Department of Law and
8 Public Safety, originally established as the Victims of Crime
9 Compensation Agency pursuant to P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.)
10 and continued as the Victims of Crime Compensation Office pursuant
11 to P.L.2007, c.95 (C.52:4B-3.2 et al.) and the Reorganization Plan No.
12 001-2008, are transferred to the Division of Violence Intervention and
13 Victim Assistance established hereunder.

14 b. ¹【The director and deputy director of the Victims of Crime
15 Compensation Office shall not be subject to the provisions of Title
16 11A of the New Jersey Statutes. All other¹】 Except for secretarial and
17 clerical personnel, all¹ employees of the Victims of Crime
18 Compensation Office, including the Victims of Crime Compensation
19 Office investigators, shall be in the ¹【career service and subject to the
20 provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes】 unclassified
21 service of the Civil Service¹.

22
23 5. (New section) a. The Attorney General shall establish an
24 Office of Violence Intervention and Prevention in the Division of
25 Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance in the Department of
26 Law and Public Safety under the supervision of ¹either¹ a ¹Director
27 or¹ Chief of the Office of Violence Intervention and Prevention.
28 The office shall promote and facilitate the performance or provision
29 of violence intervention and prevention services set forth in section
30 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
31 bill) and manage and oversee the State's violence intervention and
32 prevention work. The office's responsibilities shall include:

33 (1) managing and overseeing violence intervention and
34 prevention programs maintained and operated by the department,
35 including but not limited to any hospital-based or community-based
36 violence intervention program;

37 (2) developing, and supporting the effectuation of, policies and
38 projects related to violence intervention and prevention, including
39 but not limited to a Statewide infrastructure of violence intervention
40 and prevention services;

41 (3) assisting and advising community-based programs and local
42 entities in their development and implementation of violence
43 intervention and prevention programs and strategies, including but
44 not limited to promoting, supporting, and facilitating, through the
45 provision of training, guidance and technical assistance,
46 community-based violence intervention and prevention programs
47 that adhere to or incorporate a public health approach to public

- 1 safety, identifying best practices and evidence-based interventions,
2 and recommending programs and services to be supported by local
3 governing bodies which address community violence;
- 4 (4) developing or providing support for the development of a
5 network of community-based organizations and health and mental
6 health providers within the community that offer outreach that
7 supports communities and individuals who experience or are at risk
8 of experiencing community violence;
- 9 (5) supporting school-based opportunities to incorporate violence
10 intervention and prevention strategies that address community
11 violence;
- 12 (6) promoting the use of peer support services, such as credible
13 messengers or other individuals with lived experience to serve as
14 mentors or role models for individuals who are at risk of engaging
15 in criminal activity or who have a high risk of involvement in
16 violence;
- 17 (7) identifying, developing, and prioritizing approaches to
18 violence intervention and prevention that are trauma-informed, and
19 promoting solutions that are supportive of and incorporate mental
20 health services; and
- 21 (8) establishing partnerships with institutions of higher education
22 and research centers to identify and develop tools for evaluating and
23 measuring the effectiveness of violence intervention and prevention
24 strategies and partnering on grant applications studying or
25 implementing the same.
- 26 b. The office may apply for and accept on behalf of the State
27 any grants from the federal government or any agency thereof, or
28 from any foundation, corporation, association or person, and may
29 comply with the terms, conditions, and limitations thereof, for any
30 of the purposes of the office. Any money received may be
31 expended by the division, subject to any limitations imposed in the
32 grants, to effectuate any of the purposes of the office upon warrant
33 of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting of the
34 Department of the Treasury on vouchers certified and approved by
35 the director.
- 36 c. The Attorney General may establish a local, county, or
37 regional structure for the execution of violence intervention and
38 prevention services set forth in this section.
- 39
- 40 6. (New section) a. The Attorney General shall establish an
41 Office of Victim Support and Assistance in the Division of
42 Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance in the Department of
43 Law and Public Safety under the supervision of ¹either¹ a ¹Director
44 or¹ Chief of the Office of Victim Support and Assistance. The
45 office shall promote and facilitate the performance or provision of
46 victim support and assistance services set forth in section 3 of
47 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)

1 and oversee the department's victim-related services, in a manner
2 consistent with the goal of making victim assistance a key strategy
3 for a public health approach to public safety that prevents violence
4 and victimization. The office's responsibilities shall include:

5 (1) providing strategy and resources for the State to address the
6 needs of victims of crimes, and through this assistance, to intervene
7 in violence and prevent repeat victimization;

8 (2) setting departmental policy with respect to victims of crime
9 and violence, including but not limited to victims of sexual assault,
10 victims of domestic violence and intimate partner abuse, youth
11 victims, victims of discrimination and bias-based crimes, and
12 immigrant populations;

13 (3) serving as a repository of resources, information, best
14 practices, and guidance for communities in the aftermath of mass or
15 multiple acts of violence or bias-based acts, and developing policies
16 and partnerships to prevent these incidents;

17 (4) identifying victim populations in need of support and
18 assistance, including, but not limited to, victims of non-violent
19 offenses, and communities and demographics that are
20 disproportionately affected by violence, and developing policies for
21 these populations;

22 (5) enhancing access to healing services after incidents of
23 victimization;

24 (6) providing technical assistance, training, and guidance to other
25 divisions and organizational units within the department relating to
26 the provision of victim support and assistance;

27 (7) identifying best practices and evidence-based interventions
28 for improving services to victims, and providing resources and
29 toolkits to State and local government agencies to assist in the
30 effective implementation of these strategies;

31 (8) identifying, developing, and prioritizing trauma-informed
32 approaches to victim assistance and violence intervention that
33 promote solutions that are supportive of and incorporate mental
34 health services;

35 (9) identifying, developing recommendations on, and setting
36 crime response policies that may impact the range of victim
37 populations, including restorative justice approaches and other
38 solutions; and

39 (10) identifying and cultivating survivor-centered strategies
40 through guidance, policy and outreach support, and funding.

41 b. The office may apply for and accept on behalf of the State
42 any grants from the federal government or any agency thereof, or
43 from any foundation, corporation, association or person, and may
44 comply with the terms, conditions and limitations imposed in the
45 grants, to effectuate any of the purposes of the office upon warrant
46 of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting of the
47 Department of the Treasury on vouchers certified and approved by
48 the director.

1 c. The Attorney General may designate the Office of Victim
2 Support and Assistance to be the programmatic manager of victim-
3 related federal and State grant funds, including grants issued to the
4 State under the federal Victims of Crime Act and the federal
5 Violence Against Women Act, which are allocated to or
6 administered by the department.

7
8 7. (New section) The Attorney General shall establish an
9 Office of Trial and Criminal Justice Process in the Division of
10 Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance in the Department of
11 Law and Public Safety under the supervision of either¹ a Director
12 or¹ Chief of the Office of Trial and Criminal Justice Process. The
13 office shall promote and facilitate the performance or provision of
14 victim support and assistance services set forth in section 3 of
15 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
16 coordinate and set policy for crime victims as they navigate the
17 criminal justice process, and enhance crime victims' access to
18 services. The office's responsibilities shall include:

19 (1) advising the New Jersey State Office of Victim-Witness
20 Advocacy and the county prosecutor's victim witness advocates;

21 (2) receiving and reviewing reports from the Office of Victim-
22 Witness Advocacy and the county prosecutor's victim witness
23 advocates;

24 (3) setting Statewide policy, identifying best practices, and
25 receiving and reviewing reports regarding performances and
26 compliance with policies and rules for the Office of Victim-Witness
27 Advocacy and the county prosecutor's victim witness advocates;

28 (4) developing policy for witnesses and victims of crime who are
29 not currently served entities at the State, county, or municipal
30 levels;

31 (5) identifying best practices and setting policies aimed at better
32 informing and empowering victims of crime; and

33 (6) coordinating with organizational units under the direction of
34 the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance and
35 other divisions or departments regarding services affecting victims
36 in the criminal justice process.

37
38 8. (New section) The Executive Director of the Division of
39 Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance shall adopt rules and
40 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
41 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to implement the
42 provisions of P.L.2023, c.167 (C.52:4B-60.4 et al.).

43
44 9. Section 2 of P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-2) is amended to read
45 as follows:

1 2. As used in P.L.1971, c.317:

2 “Agency” means the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency;

3 “Child” means an unmarried person who is under 21 years of age
4 and includes a stepchild or an adopted child;

5 “Dependent” means a relative of a deceased victim who was
6 wholly or partially dependent upon the victim’s income at the time
7 of the victim’s death and shall include the child of a victim born
8 after the victim’s death;

9 “Legal assistance” means assistance provided to a crime victim
10 in the enforcement of victim’s rights in all courts; family law
11 matters, including but not limited to child protection actions,
12 divorce, custody, parenting time, child support, emancipation,
13 dependency, guardianship, and family reunification; obtaining
14 protective and restraining orders; employment matters, including
15 but not limited to wage and hour claims; accessing public benefits;
16 life planning; and any other situation for which an eligible crime
17 victim needs legal services related to the victimization;

18 “Personal injury” means actual bodily harm and includes
19 pregnancy and mental or nervous shock;

20 “Relative” of any person means the person’s spouse, parent,
21 grandparent, stepfather, stepmother, child, grandchild, brother,
22 sister, half brother, half sister, or parent of the person’s spouse;

23 “Relevant evidence” means evidence having a tendency in reason
24 to prove or disprove any fact of consequences to the determination
25 of the action and that is deemed to be admissible under the rules of
26 evidence and does not include rumor, supposition, and speculation,
27 hearsay or opinion, except as otherwise deemed admissible under
28 the rules of evidence;

29 “Review Board” or “board” means the Victims of Crime
30 Compensation Review Board established by section 2 of P.L.2007,
31 c.95 (C.52:4B-3.2);

32 “Victim” means a person who suffers personal, physical, or
33 psychological injury or death as a result of the conduct of another
34 person who commits against that person any of the offenses
35 specified in section 11 of P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-11) or an act by
36 a juvenile, which if committed by an adult, would constitute a
37 violation of any of these offenses. The term shall include, in the
38 case of a criminal homicide or an act by a juvenile which, if
39 committed by an adult, would constitute a criminal homicide, the
40 spouse, parent, legal guardian, grandparent, child, sibling, domestic
41 or civil union partner of the decedent, or parent of the decedent’s
42 child;

43 “Victims of Crime Compensation Office” or “office” means the
44 Victims of Crime Compensation Agency established pursuant to
45 P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.) which is continued as the
46 Victims of Crime Compensation Office pursuant to P.L.2007, c.95
47 (C.52:4B-3.2 et al.) and Reorganization Plan No. 001-2008 and
48 allocated to the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim

1 Assistance pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
2 before the Legislature as this bill).

3 (cf: P.L.2019, c.380, s.1)

4

5 10. Section 5 of P.L.1971, c.317 (C.52:4B-5) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 5. The agency is authorized to appoint and fix the duties and
8 compensation of such officers, examiners, and other experts as may
9 be necessary for carrying out its functions under this act, and the
10 provisions of section 4 of P.L.1970, c.74 (C.52:17B-100) shall be
11 applicable to these employees. The agency may, subject to Title
12 11A of the New Jersey Statutes, "Civil Service," appoint and fix the
13 duties and compensation of such other assistants and employees as
14 are necessary. The compensation fixed pursuant to this section
15 shall be within the limits of the funds appropriated or otherwise
16 made available to the agency for that purpose.

17 (cf: P.L.2007, c.95, s.5)

18

19 11. Section 6 of P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-44) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 6. a. The Attorney General shall, through the Office of Victim-
22 Witness Advocacy in the Division of Criminal Justice in the
23 Department of Law and Public Safety and in consultation with the
24 county prosecutors and the Office of Trial and Criminal Justice
25 Process in the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim
26 Assistance, promulgate standards for law enforcement agencies to
27 ensure that the rights of crime victims are enforced.

28 b. The standards shall require that the Office of Victim-
29 Witness Advocacy in the Division of Criminal Justice and each
30 county prosecutor's office provide the following services upon
31 request for victims and witnesses involved in the prosecution of a
32 case:

33 (1) Orientation information about the criminal justice system
34 and the victim's and witness's role in the criminal justice process;

35 (2) Notification of any change in the case status and of final
36 disposition;

37 (3) Information on crime prevention and on available responses
38 to witness intimidation;

39 (4) Information about available services to meet needs resulting
40 from the crime and referrals to service agencies, where appropriate;

41 (5) Advance notice of the date, time and place of the defendant's
42 initial appearance before a judicial officer, submission to the court
43 of any plea agreement, the trial and sentencing;

44 (6) Advance notice of when presence in court is not needed;

45 (7) Advice about available compensation, restitution and other
46 forms of recovery and assistance in applying for government
47 compensation;

- 1 (8) A waiting or reception area separate from the defendant for
2 use during court proceedings;
- 3 (9) An escort or accompaniment for intimidated victims or
4 witnesses during court appearances;
- 5 (10) Information about directions, parking, courthouse and
6 courtroom locations, transportation services and witness fees, in
7 advance of court appearances;
- 8 (11) Assistance for victims and witnesses in meeting special
9 needs when required to make court appearances, such as
10 transportation and child care arrangements;
- 11 (12) Assistance in making travel and lodging arrangements for
12 out-of-State witnesses;
- 13 (13) Notification to employers of victims and witnesses, if
14 cooperation in the investigation or prosecution causes absence from
15 work;
- 16 (14) Notification of the case disposition, including the trial and
17 sentencing;
- 18 (15) Assistance to victims in submitting a written statement to a
19 representative of the county prosecutor's office about the impact of
20 the crime prior to the prosecutor's final decision concerning whether
21 formal charges will be filed;
- 22 (16) Advice to victims about their right to make a statement
23 about the impact of the crime for inclusion in the presentence report
24 or at time of parole consideration, if applicable;
- 25 (17) Notification to victims of the right to make an in-person
26 statement, prior to sentencing, directly to the sentencing court
27 concerning the impact of the crime;
- 28 (18) Expediting the return of property when no longer needed as
29 evidence;
- 30 (19) Advise and counsel, or refer for advice or counseling,
31 victims of sexual assault, or other criminal acts involving a risk of
32 transmission of disease, concerning available medical testing and
33 assist such victims, or refer such victims for assistance, in obtaining
34 appropriate testing, counseling and medical care and in making
35 application to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office for
36 compensation for the costs of such testing, counseling and care;
- 37 (20) Assistance to victims in submitting a written impact
38 statement to a representative of the county prosecutor's office
39 concerning the impact of the crime which shall be considered prior
40 to the prosecutor's accepting a negotiated plea agreement containing
41 recommendations as to sentence and assistance to victims in
42 securing an explanation of the terms of any such agreement and the
43 reasons for the agreement;
- 44 (21) Notification to the victim of the defendant's release from
45 custody which shall include:
 - 46 (a) notice of the defendant's escape from custody and return to
47 custody following escape;

- 1 (b) notice of any other release from custody, including
2 placement in an Intensive Supervision Program or other alternative
3 disposition, and any associated conditions of release;
- 4 (c) notice of the filing by an inmate of an application for
5 commutation of sentence pursuant to N.J.S.2A:167-4 and its
6 disposition;
- 7 (d) notice of parole consideration pursuant to provisions of
8 P.L.1979, c.441 (C.30:4-123.45 et seq.); and
- 9 (e) notice of the pending release of an inmate due to expiration
10 of sentence;
- 11 (22) Interpreting services for victims and witnesses when
12 necessary to assist a victim or witness who is hearing impaired or
13 developmentally disabled as defined in section 3 of P.L.1977, c.82
14 (C.30:6D-3) to understand questions and frame answers; and
- 15 (23) Providing any applicable assistance to victims of sexual
16 assault or sexual misconduct who are incarcerated in a State
17 correctional facility that is available to other victims or witnesses.
- 18 c. In a case involving a victim of aggravated sexual assault or
19 sexual assault as defined in subsection a. or c. of N.J.S.2C:14-2, the
20 Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy or the county prosecutor's
21 office involved in the case shall:
- 22 (1) Notify the victim of the victim's right to obtain an approved
23 serological test for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
24 or infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any
25 other related virus identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS,
26 and assist the victim, or refer the victim for assistance, in obtaining
27 a test and appropriate counseling and medical care;
- 28 (2) Notify the victim of the victim's right to obtain a court order
29 pursuant to subsection a. of section 4 of P.L.1993, c.364 (C.2C:43-
30 2.2) requiring the offender to submit to an approved serological test
31 for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or infection with
32 the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any other related virus
33 identified as a probable causative agent of AIDS in the event that
34 the offender is indicted, formally charged, convicted or adjudicated
35 delinquent;
- 36 (3) Communicate the request of a victim who agrees to seek an
37 order pursuant to subsection a. of section 4 of P.L.1993, c.364
38 (C.2C:43-2.2) to the prosecutor handling the case and notify the
39 victim or arrange for the victim to be notified of the test result; and
- 40 (4) Assist the victim in applying to the Victims of Crime
41 Compensation Office for compensation for the costs of testing,
42 counseling and medical care.
- 43 d. The Attorney General shall, through the Office of Victim-
44 Witness Advocacy and in consultation with the Commissioner of
45 Health, the Superintendent of State Police and representatives of
46 providers of sexual assault services, to be designated by the
47 Director of the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, coordinate the
48 establishment of standard protocols for the provision of information

1 and services to victims of sexual assault, and shall make such
2 protocols available to victims upon request, except that the
3 provision of information and services with regard to emergency
4 contraception and sexually transmitted diseases shall be in
5 accordance with P.L.2005, c.50 (C.26:2H-12.6b et al.).

6 e. In a case involving a victim of human trafficking as defined
7 in section 1 of P.L.2005, c.77 (C.2C:13-8), the Office of Victim-
8 Witness Advocacy or the county prosecutor's office involved in the
9 case shall ensure that the victim of human trafficking obtains
10 assistance in receiving any available benefits or services, including
11 assistance in receiving any necessary certifications or endorsements
12 needed to be recognized as having federal T non-immigrant status
13 for the purpose of receiving any federal benefits or services
14 available pursuant to the "Trafficking Victims Protection
15 Reauthorization Act of 2003," 22 U.S.C. s. 7101 et seq.

16 f. The Attorney General shall, through the Office of Victim-
17 Witness Advocacy and in consultation with the Commissioner of
18 Health, the Superintendent of State Police and representatives of
19 providers of services to victims of human trafficking, to be
20 designated by the Director of the Office of Victim-Witness
21 Advocacy, coordinate the establishment of standard protocols for
22 the provision of information and services to victims of human
23 trafficking, including coordination of efforts with the appropriate
24 federal authorities pursuant to the "Trafficking Victims Protection
25 Reauthorization Act of 2003," 22 U.S.C. s. 7101 et seq. and shall
26 make such protocols available to victims upon request.

27 g. The Attorney General, shall, through the Office of Victim-
28 Witness Advocacy and in consultation with the Commissioner of
29 Corrections, promulgate standards to ensure that the rights of
30 female crime victims incarcerated in State correctional facilities are
31 enforced. The standards shall include a requirement that
32 unannounced visits be made to the facilities housing female inmates
33 and random surveys be conducted for the purpose of identifying
34 inmates who are the victims of sexual assault or sexual misconduct;
35 an inmate who is determined to be a victim shall be informed of the
36 available services set forth in subsection b. of this section and, upon
37 request, be provided with any of these services. An inmate chosen
38 by inmates in a housing unit as the liaison between the correctional
39 facility administration and the inmate population shall be provided
40 with a copy of this section of law. The liaison also shall be
41 provided with a summary of the assistance and services available
42 pursuant to subsection b. of this section for dissemination to the
43 inmates in the housing unit.

44 h. The Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy shall issue, upon
45 request of the Office of Trial and Criminal Justice Process in the
46 Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance, reports
47 regarding the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy's performance of
48 its duties as may be requested, and all State departments and

1 agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities, as well as
2 municipal and county governing bodies, boards, commissions, and
3 authorities, shall cooperate fully in the preparation of any reports to
4 the extent required and appropriate.

5 (cf: P.L.2019, c.308, s.1)

6
7 12. Section 7 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-55) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 7. a. The Attorney General shall establish a Sexual Assault
10 Nurse Examiner Program Coordinating Council comprised of: the
11 Attorney General, the Director of the Division on Women, the Chief
12 of the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the Executive Director
13 of the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance, the
14 Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual
15 Assault, and the Executive Director of the New Jersey Board of
16 Nursing, or their respective designees; a representative from the
17 New Jersey County Prosecutor's Association; and the program
18 coordinators appointed or designated pursuant to section 3 of
19 P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-51).

20 The Attorney General, through the sexual assault unit established
21 pursuant to section 8 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-56), and in
22 consultation with the coordinating council, shall oversee the
23 Statewide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program and identify and
24 obtain any State and federal funding available to supplement the
25 funds appropriated to operate the program.

26 b. The coordinating council shall review the effectiveness of
27 the services provided by the State to victims of sexual assault and
28 make recommendations to the Attorney General for any needed
29 changes in the standards, regulations or State policy concerning the
30 provision of victim services.

31 (cf: P.L.2012, c.16, s.136)

32
33 13. Section 8 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-56) is amended to read
34 as follows:

35 8. The Attorney General shall establish a sexual assault unit
36 within the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law
37 and Public Safety which shall include a sexual assault investigator
38 and a certified forensic sexual assault nurse examiner.

39 The unit shall **【oversee】** consult with the Division of Violence
40 Intervention and Victim Assistance in its oversight of the operation
41 of the county sexual assault nurse examiner programs, and provide
42 assistance to counties in the investigation and prosecution of sexual
43 assaults. The unit shall review all complaints received regarding a
44 county's investigation and prosecution of a sexual assault and shall
45 provide recommendations to the Attorney General regarding the
46 county's investigation and prosecution of the case. The unit also
47 shall provide training to law enforcement officials and county
48 prosecutors, on an ongoing basis, in the investigation and

1 prosecution of sexual assault. Any training the unit may provide to
2 county prosecutors and assistant county prosecutors shall comply
3 with the requirements of section 1 of P.L.2021, c.66 (C.52:4B-
4 54.2).

5 (cf: P.L.2021, c.66, s.2)

6

7 14. Section 1 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.52:17B-237) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. There is hereby created, in the Division of Criminal
10 Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, a commission
11 to be known as the Commission on Human Trafficking, consisting
12 of **[15]** 17 members as follows: the Attorney General, or **[his]** the
13 Attorney General's designee; the Commissioner of Children and
14 Families, or **[his]** the commissioner's designee; the Commissioner
15 of Human Services, or **[his]** the commissioner's designee; a county
16 prosecutor, appointed by the Governor based upon the
17 recommendation of the County Prosecutors Association of the State
18 of New Jersey; one member of the New Jersey Human Trafficking
19 Task Force established within the Department of Law and Public
20 Safety, designated by the Attorney General; the Executive Director
21 of the Division of Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance or
22 the executive director's designee; two public members appointed by
23 the Governor based upon the recommendation of the Senate
24 President, one representing law enforcement and one representing a
25 victim's assistance organization; one public member appointed by
26 the Governor based upon the recommendation of the Senate
27 Minority Leader representing either a non-profit health care facility
28 or mental health services; two public members appointed by the
29 Governor based upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the
30 General Assembly, one representing law enforcement and one
31 representing a victim's assistance organization; one public member
32 appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of the
33 Assembly Minority Leader representing either a non-profit health
34 care facility or mental health services; and **[four]** five public
35 members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
36 representative of a child advocacy organization concerning missing,
37 abducted, or exploited children, and one of whom shall be a human
38 trafficking survivor. All public members shall have experience
39 with, possess a background in, or demonstrate a specialized
40 knowledge of, the legal, policy, educational, social, or
41 psychological aspects of human trafficking.

42 b. (1) Of the public members first appointed:

43 (a) the following shall serve for a term of three years: one
44 member appointed upon the recommendation of the Senate
45 President; one member appointed upon the recommendation of the
46 Speaker of the General Assembly; and two members appointed by
47 the Governor; and

1 (b) the following shall serve for a term of two years: one
2 member appointed upon the recommendation of the Senate
3 President; one member appointed upon the recommendation of the
4 Speaker of the General Assembly; each member appointed upon the
5 recommendation of the Senate and Assembly Minority Leaders; and
6 **【two】** three members appointed by the Governor.

7 (c) Upon the conclusion of the initial terms, each public member
8 shall be appointed for a term of three years.

9 (2) Each member appointed shall hold office for the term of
10 appointment and until a successor shall have been appointed and
11 qualified.

12 (3) Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
13 filled by appointment in the same manner as the original
14 appointment was made.

15 c. (1) The commission shall organize upon the appointment of
16 a majority of its authorized membership. The members shall elect
17 one of the members to serve as chair and vice-chair, and the chair
18 may appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the
19 commission.

20 (2) The commission shall meet at those times and places within
21 the State of New Jersey as the commission shall determine. A
22 majority of the commission's authorized membership shall
23 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, for the
24 performance of any duty, or for the exercise of any power of the
25 commission.

26 d. The members of the commission shall serve without
27 compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary
28 and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their
29 official duties within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
30 made available to the commission for its purposes.

31 e. The Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law
32 and Public Safety shall, at the direction of the Attorney General,
33 provide legal, stenographic, technical, clerical, and other staff and
34 resource assistance to the commission, and additionally the
35 commission may incur expenses as may be necessary in order to
36 perform its duties within the limits of funds appropriated or
37 otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

38 f. It shall be the duty of the commission to:

39 (1) Evaluate the existing law concerning human trafficking and
40 the enforcement thereof, and to make recommendations for
41 legislation, if appropriate;

42 (2) Review existing victim assistance programs and analyze the
43 costs, organization, and availability of these services for victims of
44 human trafficking and to make recommendations for legislation, if
45 appropriate;

46 (3) Promote a coordinated response by public and private
47 resources for victims of human trafficking; and

1 (4) Develop mechanisms to promote public awareness of human
2 trafficking, victim remedies and services, and trafficking prevention
3 including the creation of a public awareness sign promoting the
4 national, 24-hour toll-free hotline telephone service on human
5 trafficking described under section 18 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.2C:13-
6 11), and the promotion of training courses and other educational
7 materials for use by persons required under section 19 of P.L.2013,
8 c.51 (C.2C:13-12) to undergo training on the handling of and
9 response procedures for suspected human trafficking activities.

10 g. The commission shall report annually to the Governor and to
11 the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
12 19.1), its activities, as well as its findings and recommendations for
13 any needed new services or resources for victims of human
14 trafficking, and any proposed changes to the current law concerning
15 human trafficking.

16 (cf: P.L.2021, c.3, s.1)

17
18 ¹【15. (New section) There is appropriated \$4,500,000 from
19 the General Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety for
20 the establishment of the “Division of Violence Intervention and
21 Victim Assistance,” pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
22 before the Legislature as this bill).】¹

23
24 ¹【16. (New section) In addition to the amounts appropriated
25 under P.L.2022, c.49, there is appropriated \$1,000,000 from the
26 General Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety for the
27 Office of Crime Compensation Office, originally established as the
28 Victims of Crime Compensation Agency pursuant to P.L.1971,
29 c.317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.) and transferred to the Division of
30 Violence Intervention and Victim Assistance pursuant to section 4
31 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
32 for the purpose of victim compensation.】¹

33
34 ¹【17.】 15.¹This act shall take effect ¹【on the first day of the
35 sixth month following enactment】 immediately¹.

36
37
38
39
40 Establishes Division of Violence Intervention and Victim
41 Assistance in Department of Law and Public Safety.