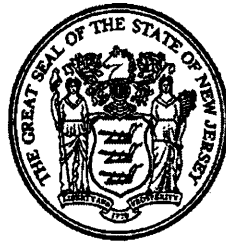
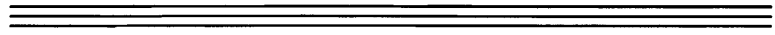


ACTS
OF THE
First Annual Session
OF THE
Two Hundred and Thirteenth Legislature
OF THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

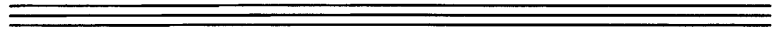


2008

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REORGANIZATION PLANS



**REORGANIZATION PLAN NO. 001-2008
VICTIMS OF CRIME COMPENSATION AGENCY - TRANSFER
TO DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
NOTICE OF A PLAN FOR THE REORGANIZATION AND TRANS-
FER OF THE VICTIMS OF CRIME COMPENSATION AGENCY**

Take notice that on January 28, 2008, Governor Jon S. Corzine hereby issues the following Reorganization Plan (No. 001-2008) to reorganize the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency by transferring the agency and all related functions, powers and duties from the Department of the Treasury to the Department of Law and Public Safety.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Victims of Crime Compensation Agency (Agency) in the Department of the Treasury provides compensation to crime victims for some of the expenses they suffer as the result of the crime. The Agency's victim counseling service provides, without charge, assistance to victims with regard to filing a claim with the Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board (Board), emergency food and clothing, employment opportunities, referrals to other social service agencies and assistance in obtaining legal advice or representation. In addition, the Agency identifies sources to provide mental health counseling to victims. The Agency is also authorized to conduct training programs for attorneys and victim service providers. The Agency may also seek leave to appear as *amicus curiae* in actions where the rights of crime victims are affected.

Currently, the executive director of the Agency is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The executive director, in consultation with the Board, is responsible for developing, establishing and supervising the Agency's practices and procedures.

The Board is established within the Agency. The Board is composed of five citizens appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board members, who serve without compensation, serve three-year terms and may be reappointed. The Board hears appeals from decisions of the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency involving issues of victim compensation; consults with the executive director in developing, establishing and supervising all practices and procedures of the Agency;

reviews individual and supplemental awards to a victim or a victim's family in excess of \$ 10,000 in the aggregate, and awards of attorney fees for legal representation to victims; reviews information detailing the aggregate claims received and paid by the Agency, and the operations of the Agency; and reviews and, if appropriate, approves any rules and regulations, standards, and maximum rates and service limitations for reimbursement proposed by the Agency.

The Agency is the successor to the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, established by P.L. 1971, c. 317 (C. 52:4B-1 et seq.), which was an agency in but not of the Department of Law and Public Safety. P.L. 2007, c. 95 reorganized the duties and responsibilities of the Victims of Crime Compensation Board into the newly established Agency, providing greater oversight by placing the Agency within a department of State Government, and established the unpaid Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board to replace the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, whose members were salaried employees.

The Department of Law and Public Safety houses the principal law enforcement and legal entities of State government. In addition, the Division of Criminal Justice maintains the State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, which also provides assistance to crime victims and their families. This Office works with the law enforcement community, public agencies, non-profit service agencies, the faith-based community and other entities to provide a victim-centered response to meet the needs of victims and their families. This Office also works with the similar entities within the county prosecutors' offices. The Office also administers several federal grant programs and the State Victim-Witness Advocacy Fund.

In order to more efficiently manage and administer the State's services for crime victims, this Reorganization Plan (Plan) provides for the transfer of the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency, including the Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board as well as the Office of Victim-Witness Assistance, to and within the Department of Law and Public Safety. It also provides for the renaming of the Agency as the Victims of Crime Compensation Office and the renaming of the Office of Victim-Witness Assistance as the Victim-Witness Assistance Bureau. This Plan also provides for the abolition of the position of executive director and the substitution of the position of director. This provision will allow for the better integration of the work of the Agency within the Department of Law and

Public Safety and the coordination of the Agency's work with the other victim services entities in that Department. This transfer will also increase the ability of the State to coordinate and improve victim services and related activities offered by the Agency and the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, aligning and assigning similar functions within one agency, thereby promoting overall efficiency and effectiveness.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the provisions of the "Executive Reorganization Act of 1969," P.L. 1969, c. 203 (C. 52:14C-1 et seq.), I find with respect to the reorganization and transfers included in this Plan that each aspect is necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth in Section 2 of that Act and will do the following:

1. Promote more effective management of the Executive Branch and of its agencies by grouping victim services and related functions within one department;
2. Promote better and more efficient execution of the laws and expeditious administration of the public business by consolidating and integrating within one department similar regulatory functions, particularly the providing of services to victims;
3. Group and coordinate these functions in a more consistent and practical way;
4. Reduce expenditures and promote economy to the fullest extent consistent with the efficient operations of the Executive Branch;
5. Increase the efficiency of the operations of the Executive Branch to the fullest extent practicable; and
6. Eliminate duplication of efforts by consolidating certain functions which will result in a savings of State funds.

PROVISIONS OF THE REORGANIZATION PLAN

THEREFORE, I hereby order the following reorganization of the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency:

1. The Victims of Crime Compensation Agency in the Department of the Treasury, including the functions, powers and duties assigned to it by P.L. 1971, c. 317 (C. 52:4B-1 et seq.), and P.L. 2007, c. 95 (C. 52:4B-3.2 through 3.4), is hereby continued and transferred to and within the Department of Law and Public Safety, and shall be renamed the Victims of Crime Compensation Office.

2. The Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board and its membership, including the functions, powers and duties assigned to it by P.L. 1971, c. 317 (C. 52:4B-1 et seq.), and P.L. 2007, c. 95 (C. 52:4B-3.2 through 3.4), is hereby continued and transferred to and within the Victims of Crime Compensation Office, Department of Law and Public Safety.

3. The Office of Victim-Witness Assistance created pursuant to P.L. 1985, c. 404, as amended (C. 52:4B-39 et seq.), is hereby continued and transferred to and within the Victims of Crime Compensation Office, Department of Law and Public Safety, and shall be renamed the Victim-Witness Assistance Bureau. The power of the executive director of the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency under section 31 of P.L. 2007, c. 95 (C. 52:4B-40.1), to appoint the director of the Office of Victim-Witness Assistance is continued and is transferred to the Attorney General.

4. The office of executive director of the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency created pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 2007, c. 95, is abolished. There is hereby created the position of director of the Victims of Crime Compensation Office. The functions, powers and duties of the executive director of the Agency are continued and are transferred to the director. The director shall be appointed as provided in P.L. 1969, c. 203, s. 5 (C. 52:14C-5), and shall receive such compensation as is provided by law. I find that the creation of the office of director and provision for compensation are necessary in order to effectuate the provisions of this Plan.

5. All employees of the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency shall be employees of the Department of Law and Public Safety and shall be transferred to the Department pursuant to the "State Agency Transfer Act," P.L. 1971, c. 375 (C. 52:14D-1 et seq.).

6. All records, property, appropriations and unexpended balance of funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Agency shall be transferred

to the Department pursuant to the "State Agency Transfer Act," P.L. 1971, c. 375 (C. 52:14D-1 et seq.).

7. Whenever in P.L. 1971, c. 317 (C. 52:4B-1 et seq.), and in sections 2 through 4 of P.L. 2007, c. 95 (C. 52:4B-3.2 through 52:4B-3.4) or in any law, rule, regulation, order, contract, document, judicial or administrative proceeding or otherwise reference is made to the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency or the Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board or the Office of Victim-Witness Assistance, or the executive director of the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency within the Department of the Treasury, the same shall mean and refer to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office or the Victims of Crime Compensation Review Board or the Victim-Witness Assistance Bureau, or the director of the Victims of Crime Compensation Office, as the case may be, within the Department of Law and Public Safety.

8. All regulations promulgated by the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency pursuant to section 9 of P.L. 1971, c. 317, (C. 52:4B-9), shall remain in effect until such time as they may be amended or repealed or new regulations are promulgated.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Reorganization Plan are superseded to the extent of such inconsistencies.

2. Unless otherwise specified in this Reorganization Plan, all transfers directed by this Reorganization Plan shall be effected pursuant to the State Agency Transfer Act, P.L. 1971, c. 375 (C.52:14D-1 et seq.).

3. If any provisions of this Reorganization Plan or the application thereto to any persons, or circumstances, or the exercise of any power or authority hereunder is held invalid or contrary to law, such holding shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Plan, which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, or affect other exercises of power or authority under said provisions not contrary to law. To this end, the provisions of this Reorganization Plan are declared to be severable.

A copy of this Reorganization Plan was filed on January 28, 2008 with the Secretary of State and the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the New Jersey Register. This Plan shall become effective in 60 days, on March 28, 2008, unless disapproved by each House of the Legislature by passage of a Concurrent Resolution stating in substance that the Legislature does not favor this Reorganization Plan, or at a later date should the Governor establish such a later date for the effective date of the Plan, or any part thereof, by Executive Order.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that this Reorganization Plan, if not disapproved, has the force and effect of law and will be printed and published in the annual edition of the Public Laws and in the New Jersey Register under a heading of "Reorganization Plans."

Filed January 28, 2008.

Effective March 28, 2008.