

House Bill 1081

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Talton of the 145<sup>th</sup>, Mangham of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 17-15-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 persons eligible for awards under the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund, so as to  
3 define a certain term; to provide that eligible persons may file a claim with the board when  
4 a cold case is reopened or when a convicted offender seeks post-conviction relief; to provide  
5 for compensation; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 17-15-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to persons eligible  
9 for awards under the Georgia Crime Victims Emergency Fund, is amended by adding a new  
10 subsection to read as follows:

11 "(i)(1) As used in this subsection, the term 'cold case' means a criminal investigation  
12 which has been open at least three years and in which the investigators have exhausted  
13 all leads.

14 (2) Any time a cold case is reopened, or any time the convicted perpetrator of a crime  
15 seeks relief through a motion for retrial, retrial, post-conviction appeal, writ of habeas  
16 corpus, or pardon or parole, a person eligible for awards may file a claim with the board  
17 for compensation for counseling and for assistance with the cost of attending legal  
18 proceedings. The maximum award under this Code section shall be \$3,000.00 for  
19 counseling and \$2,000.00 for the costs of attending criminal proceedings."

20 **SECTION 2.**

21 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.