

House Bill 993

By: Representatives Drenner of the 85th, Kendrick of the 93rd, Stephenson of the 90th, Jones of the 62nd, and Randall of the 142nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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

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

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

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.