

**CHAPTER 201**  
**HB 616-FN – FINAL VERSION**

18Feb2015... 0221h  
05/07/2015 1490s

2015 SESSION

15-0003  
04/01

HOUSE BILL            ***616-FN***

AN ACT                relative to compensation to claimants under the victims' assistance fund.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Cushing, Rock 21; Rep. Fields, Belk 4; Rep. Hirsch, Merr 6; Rep. Gagne, Hills 13; Rep. Pantelakos, Rock 25; Rep. Lachance, Hills 8; Rep. McLean, Hills 15; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Lasky, Dist 13

COMMITTEE:          Judiciary

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Increases maximum eligibility for compensation from the victims' assistance fund.
- II. Prohibits any person from collecting or attempting to collect a debt from a claimant resulting from a crime-related expense during the pendency of the claim.
- III. Authorizes the attorney general to request additional funds as necessary to pay victims' compensation claims.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                                Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]  
                                Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen*

AN ACT                   relative to compensation to claimants under the victims' assistance fund.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1           201:1 Claimant Eligibility; Compensation. Amend RSA 21-M:8-h, V to read as follows:

2           V. The claimant may be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, medical expenses,  
3 funeral expenses, counseling expenses, rehabilitative expenses, expenses associated with the victim's  
4 participation in post-conviction proceedings and victim-offender dialogue programs or other  
5 restorative justice programs, and lost wages directly resulting from the crime. Claimants eligible  
6 under subparagraph I(a)(4) may be reimbursed for the costs of removing the tattoo with an  
7 identifying mark. No reimbursement shall be paid unless the claimant has incurred reimbursable  
8 expenses of at least \$100. There shall be a [~~\$25,000~~] **\$30,000** maximum recovery per claimant per  
9 incident. If expenses paid through the victims' assistance program fund are later covered by  
10 insurance settlements, civil suit settlements, or restitution, or through any other source, the  
11 claimant shall reimburse the fund for the amount of expenses recovered.

12           201:2 New Paragraphs; Claimant Eligibility; Compensation. Amend RSA 21-M:8-h by inserting  
13 after paragraph IX the following new paragraphs:

14           X.(a) No person that has received notice of a claim filed pursuant to this section shall collect  
15 a debt or attempt to collect a debt resulting from a crime-related expense against a claimant under  
16 this section until an award is made to the claimant or the claim is determined to be noncompensable.  
17 The statute of limitations for the collection of such debts shall be tolled during the period of this  
18 prohibition.

19           (b) Any person who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be liable to the  
20 claimant pursuant to the provisions of RSA 358-C:4.

21           (c) In this paragraph, "person" shall have the same meaning as in RSA 358-C:1, X.

22           XI. With the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor and  
23 council, the attorney general may request additional funds to pay claims for compensation to victims  
24 pursuant to RSA 21-M:8-h, on the warrant of the governor, out of any money in the treasury not  
25 otherwise appropriated.

26           201:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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28 Approved: July 6, 2015

Effective Date: September 4, 2015

