



**152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL NOTE**

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<b>BILL:</b>	<b>SENATE BILL NO. 17</b>
<b>SPONSOR:</b>	<b>Senator Townsend</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE VICTIMS' COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.</b>

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**Assumptions:**

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act revises the Victims' Bill of Rights and the Victims' Compensation Assistance Program to either codify existing practices or create new rights and responsibilities. In addition, it extends these rights to more victims, adds additional offenses to the definition of "crime" within 11 Del. C. c. 94, and includes any offense that is the basis for abuse, domestic violence, or a sexual violence protective order.
3. This Act provides victims with the right to have a victim advocate present for all proceedings related to the crime as well as provide other victim services. The Department of Justice (DOJ) anticipates that upon passage of this Act, it would need to significantly expand its ability to offer victim advocates, or victim services professionals, to victims of crime. The DOJ estimates that compliance with the provisions of this Act would require an expansion of 19.0 FTE, Victim Service Specialists to be deployed statewide.
  - a. The Fiscal Year 2025 personnel costs, including OECs at a rate of 32.94%, for the 19.0 FTE, Victim Service Specialist positions are estimated at \$1,395,135, and one-time funding of \$126,730 for projected technology equipment and furniture costs related to the startup of these positions.
4. To comply with this Act, The Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) would be required to make programming changes and develop electronic mail notification functionality within the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) interface. DELJIS estimates that the development of this functionality and associated system enhancements within the CJIS will require one-time funding of \$110,000 and then an additional annual cost of \$12,000 to support ongoing maintenance.
5. The Department of Correction (DOC) would be required to make programming changes to its Delaware Automated Correction System (DACS) for enhancements and modifications to its Victim Notification module to support the electronic mail notification functionality to comply with this Act. DOC estimates the development of this functionality and associated system enhancements within the DACS to require one-time funding of \$40,000.
6. Lastly, the Fiscal Year 2025 personnel costs have been estimated for nine months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining three months incorporated into the subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation cost has been included for projected increases in salary and OECs.

**Cost:**

	<b><u>One-Time</u></b>	<b><u>Operating/Recurring</u></b>
<b>Fiscal Year 2025:</b>	\$276,730	\$1,395,135
<b>Fiscal Year 2026:</b>		\$1,909,384
<b>Fiscal Year 2027:</b>		\$1,947,331

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Prepared by Jason R. Smith  
Office of the Controller General