

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6655

To amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to provide compensation for direct victims of civil rights movement violence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Mr. BACON (for himself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to provide compensation for direct victims of civil rights movement violence, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sarah Collins Rudolph
5 Civil Rights Compensation Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPENSATION FOR DIRECT VICTIMS OF CIVIL**
7 **RIGHTS MOVEMENT VIOLENCE.**

8 Chapter XIV of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984
9 (34 U.S.C. 20101 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 1402(d) by adding at the end the
2 following new paragraph:

3 “(7)(A) In addition to the amounts distributed
4 under paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6) the Di-
5 rector shall set aside up to \$10,000,000 from the
6 amounts transferred to the Fund to award grants to
7 an individual who is a direct victim of civil rights
8 movement violence in accordance with section
9 1404G. The Director may replenish any amounts ob-
10 ligated from such reserve in subsequent fiscal years
11 by setting aside up to 25 percent of the amounts re-
12 maining in the Fund in any fiscal year after distrib-
13 uting amounts under paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5),
14 and (6). Such reserve shall not exceed 10 million
15 dollars.

16 “(B) The grants to an individual who is a
17 direct victim of civil rights movement violence
18 referred to in subparagraph (A) may be used
19 for grants under section 1404G of this title.

20 “(C) Amounts for grants to an individual
21 who is a direct victim of civil rights movement
22 violence established pursuant to subparagraph
23 (A) may be carried over from fiscal year to fis-
24 cal year.”; and

1 (2) by inserting after section 1404F the fol-
2 lowing new section:

3 **“SEC. 1404G. GRANTS TO DIRECT VICTIMS OF CIVIL RIGHTS**
4 **MOVEMENT VIOLENCE.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Department
6 of Justice and Office for Victims of Crime shall make
7 grants as provided in section 1404(d) to an individual who
8 is a direct victim of civil rights movement violence.

9 “(b) GRANT AMOUNT.—

10 “(1) INITIAL GRANT AMOUNT.—A direct victim
11 of civil rights movement violence shall be eligible for
12 a grant under this section in the amount that is
13 equal to the cost of the individual’s medical care as-
14 sociated with an injury sustained during the civil
15 rights movement, as demonstrated by the medical
16 records of such direct victim.

17 “(2) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—A direct victim
18 of civil rights movement violence may apply for an
19 additional grant amount if—

20 “(A) the cost of the individual’s medical
21 care associated with the injury sustained during
22 the civil rights movement has resulted in addi-
23 tional expenses after a grant amount under this
24 section was awarded; or

1 “(B) the direct victim of civil rights move-
2 ment violence submits medical records dem-
3 onstrating costs greater than a grant amount
4 awarded under this section.

5 “(c) SURVIVORS OF A DIRECT VICTIM.—A family
6 member of a direct victim of civil rights movement violence
7 shall be eligible for a grant under this section if such fam-
8 ily member is responsible for the costs related to the injury
9 sustained during the civil rights movement and the direct
10 victim is deceased.

11 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.—The term
13 ‘civil rights movement’ means the time period of
14 1954 through 1965.

15 “(2) DIRECT VICTIM OF CIVIL RIGHTS MOVE-
16 MENT VIOLENCE.—The term ‘direct victim of civil
17 rights movement violence’ means an individual
18 who—

19 “(A) is an citizen of the United States;

20 “(B) sustained an injury as a result of ra-
21 cial violence during the civil rights movement;

22 “(C) can provide evidence of the injury
23 sustained through medical records; and

24 “(D) has or is incurring expenses related
25 to the injury.

1 “(3) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ‘family
2 member’ means—

3 “(A) a person to whom the direct victim of
4 civil rights movement violence is legally mar-
5 ried, even if physically separated, under the
6 laws of the jurisdiction where the marriage took
7 place;

8 “(B) a child that is natural, illegitimate,
9 adopted, posthumous, or a stepchild of the di-
10 rect victim of civil rights movement violence; or

11 “(C) any other family member that pro-
12 vided medical care or funding to medical ex-
13 penses to a direct victim of civil rights move-
14 ment violence.

15 “(4) INJURY.—The term ‘injury’ means—

16 “(A) a traumatic physical wound (or a
17 traumatized physical condition of the body) di-
18 rectly and proximately caused by external force
19 (such as bullets, explosives, sharp instruments,
20 blunt objects, or physical blows), chemicals,
21 electricity, climatic conditions, infectious dis-
22 ease, radiation, virii, or bacteria;

23 “(B) any associated or resulting traumatic
24 physical wound that occurred as a result of a
25 traumatic physical wound described in subpara-

1 graph (A), even if such resulting traumatic
2 physical wound did not occur during the civil
3 rights movement; and

4 “(C) any associated or resulting psycho-
5 logical condition that occurred as a result of a
6 traumatic physical wound described in subpara-
7 graph (A), even if such resulting psychological
8 condition did not occur during the civil rights
9 movement.

10 “(5) MEDICAL RECORDS.—The term ‘medical
11 records’ includes medical records and bills that docu-
12 ment an injury during the civil rights movement.

13 “(6) RACIAL VIOLENCE.—The term ‘racial vio-
14 lence’ means violence in which the individual inten-
15 tionally selects a victim, or in the case of a property
16 crime, the property that is the object of the crime,
17 because of the actual or perceived race, color, reli-
18 gion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or
19 sexual orientation of any person.”.

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