

SENATE BILL 252

By Haile

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-13-106, relative to criminal injuries compensation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-13-106, is amended by deleting subsection (h) and substituting:

(h)

(1) It is the intent of the general assembly that the maximum award pursuant to subsection (e) equal no less than one hundred five percent (105%) of the national average of the maximum compensation award provided by the fifty (50) states within the United States, the District of Columbia, and the United States Virgin Islands.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2026, and every three (3) years thereafter, the state treasurer shall compare the maximum award limit for this program with the average of the maximum award limits of the fifty (50) states within the United States, the District of Columbia, and the United States Virgin Islands. If any of the states or territories do not have a maximum award limit that is ascertainable or set in a manner similar to that of Tennessee, then the state treasurer shall eliminate that state or territory from comparison.

(3) If the state treasurer determines that the maximum is less than one hundred five percent (105%) of the national average, then the state treasurer shall adjust the maximum award to an amount equal to one hundred five percent

(105%) of the national average; provided, however, that the maximum award must be rounded up to the nearest one hundred dollars (\$100).

(4) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, the state treasurer shall make an adjustment to the maximum award amount by publishing the adjusted maximum award on the department of treasury website no later than March 1 of the comparison year. An adjustment made pursuant to this section is effective on July 1 of the comparison year, and applies to claims filed for crimes occurring on or after that date. The determination and publication of the adjusted maximum award by the state treasurer is not a rule as defined in § 4-5-102, and such actions of the state treasurer are exempt from the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.