

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2015  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 556**

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**Introduced by Senator De León**

February 26, 2015

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An act to amend Section 13958 of the Government Code, relating to victims of crime.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 556, as amended, De León. Victims of crime: indemnification: applications.

Existing law provides for the indemnification of victims of specified types of crimes by the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, subject to specified criteria for, among other things, submission and verification of applications. Existing law requires the board to approve or deny applications, based on recommendations of the board staff, within an average of 90 calendar days and no later than 180 calendar days of acceptance by the board or victim center. Existing law requires the board to report to the Legislature, on a quarterly basis, its progress and its current average time of processing applications if the board does not meet the prescribed 90-day average standard.

This bill would define "time of processing applications" for purposes of these provisions and would require the board to post on its Internet Web site, on an annual basis, its progress and current average time of processing ~~applications~~. *applications, the number of applications approved, the number of applications denied, and the number of incomplete applications received.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 13958 of the Government Code is  
2 amended to read:

3 13958. (a) The board shall approve or deny applications, based  
4 on recommendations of the board staff, within an average of 90  
5 calendar days and no later than 180 calendar days of acceptance  
6 by the board or victim center.

7 (1) If the board does not meet the 90-day average standard  
8 prescribed in this subdivision, the board shall, thereafter, report to  
9 the Legislature, on a quarterly basis, its progress and its current  
10 average time of processing applications. These quarterly reports  
11 shall continue until the board meets the 90-day average standard  
12 for two consecutive quarters.

13 (2) If the board fails to approve or deny an individual application  
14 within 180 days of the date it is accepted, pursuant to this  
15 subdivision, the board shall advise the applicant and his or her  
16 representative, in writing, of the reason for the failure to approve  
17 or deny the application.

18 (b) The board shall post on its Internet Web site, on an annual  
19 basis, its progress and current average time of processing  
20 ~~applications.~~ *applications, the number of applications approved,*  
21 *the number of applications denied, and the number of incomplete*  
22 *applications received.*

23 (c) For purposes of this section, “time of processing  
24 applications” means the period of time, including all calendar days,  
25 that begins when the board first receives ~~and an~~ application and  
26 ends when ~~a check is mailed to an eligible victim.~~ *a determination*  
27 *is made to approve or deny the application and notice of that*  
28 *determination is sent to the applicant.*