

(c) The Secretary, with the approval of the Governor, shall designate one member of the Board as chairman, to serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

(d) The members of the Board shall devote such time as is necessary to perform the duties imposed upon them. They shall receive an annual salary as may be provided in the annual budget.

8.

(a) A claim, when accepted for filing, shall be assigned by the chairman to [himself or to another member] 3 MEMBERS of the Board. All claims arising from the death of an individual as a direct result of a crime shall be considered together [by a single Board member] BY 3 BOARD MEMBERS. The chairman may reassign cases as necessary.

(b) The Board [member] MEMBERS to whom [such] THE claim is assigned shall examine the papers filed in support of the claim and shall thereupon cause an investigation to be conducted into the validity of the claim. The investigation shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of police, court and official records and reports concerning the crime and an examination of medical and hospital reports relating to the injury upon which the claim is based.

(c) Claims shall be investigated and determined, regardless of whether the alleged criminal has been apprehended or prosecuted for or convicted of any crime based upon the same incident, or has been acquitted, or found not guilty of the crime in question owing to criminal responsibility or other legal exemption.

(d) The Board [member] MEMBERS to whom a claim is assigned may [decide the claim in favor of a claimant on the basis of the papers filed in support thereof and the report of the investigation of the claim.] RECOMMEND A TENTATIVE DECISION AND ADVISE THE CLAIMANT OF THAT RECOMMENDATION. THE CLAIMANT MAY REQUEST A HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESENTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. If the Board [member is] MEMBERS ARE unable to decide the claim upon the basis of the said papers and report, [he] THEY shall order a hearing. At the hearing any relevant evidence, not legally privileged, shall be admissible.

(e) After examining the papers filed in support of the claim and the report of investigation, and after a hearing, if any, the Board [member] MEMBERS to whom the claim was assigned shall make a decision either granting an award pursuant to § 12 of this article or deny the claim.

(f) The Board [member] MEMBERS making a decision shall file with the secretary a written report setting forth [such] THE