

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 479

2025 Regular Session

Mandie Landry

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Provides relative to witness or victim notification

DIGEST

Proposed law provides for notice from the sheriff, the highest ranking employee of the sheriff's office, or the person acting on behalf of the sheriff who is physically present at and in charge of the parish prison or jail to every law enforcement agency, victim, witness, and local media outlet when an inmate has escaped from or left the premises of the parish prison or jail without authority.

Proposed law provides for notification procedures pertaining to an inmate's escape and recapture.

Proposed law defines the terms "law enforcement agency" and "local media outlet".

Proposed law directs the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to create a comprehensive victims' services system to notify victims, witnesses, and designated family members of their rights and to inform them of legal proceedings.

Present law (R.S. 46:1844) provides for the basic rights of victims and witnesses of a crime.

Proposed law creates the Victims' Bill of Rights related to the rights established in present law.

Proposed law provides that a defendant shall not have standing to challenge the outcome of a case pursuant to a violation of a victim's rights.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 15:715 and R.S. 46:1847 and 1848)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide for notification procedures from certain individuals who are physically present at and in charge of the parish prison or jail when an inmate has escaped from or left the premises of the parish prison or jail without authority.
3. Clarify that recipients of such notification are law enforcement agencies, victims, witnesses, and local media outlets.
4. Provide for notification procedures pertaining to an inmate's escape and recapture.
5. Define the terms "law enforcement agency" and "local media outlet".

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the re-engrossed bill

1. Remove proposed law requirement to promulgate rules and regulations.

2. Provide for system development in conjunction with the ICJIS and conformity with present law requirements.
3. Add the right to obtain initial police reports free of charge to proposed law victim's bill of rights.