

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 538 (HB 251)

2026 Regular Session

Mandie Landry

Existing law (R.S. 46:1844) provides basic rights for victims and witnesses.

Existing law provides the right of the victim to be present and heard at all critical stages of trial.

New law prohibits a court from reducing or vacating a sentence without first holding a hearing where the victim has a right to be heard.

New law requires the clerk of court to provide written notice to the victim of the pending motion to vacate or resentence.

New law provides that any motion granted without compliance with new law is voidable as a patent error.

New law allows the victim's family to testify if the victim is deceased or unable to appear due to disability.

New law does not create or permit individual standing to intervene in a criminal proceeding.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 46:1844(K)(4))