

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

**HB 479**

**2025 Regular Session**

**Mandie Landry**

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Provides relative to witness or victim notification

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Removes proposed law requirement to promulgate rules and regulations.
2. Provides for system development in conjunction with the Integrated Criminal Justice Information System and conformity with present law requirements.
3. Adds the right to obtain initial police reports free of charge to proposed law Crime Victims' Bill of Rights.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

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 Crime 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)