

**ACT No. 258**

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 116

BY REPRESENTATIVES DWIGHT AND LEGER

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 46:1844(A)(2)(b) and (d), (M)(1) and (2), (O), and (R) and to enact R.S. 46:1844(A)(2)(e), relative to rights of crime victims; to provide relative to the registration of crime victims; to provide relative to the development of a system that allows for electronic registration and notification; to authorize a registered victim to submit a reentry statement recommending certain parole conditions for the inmate; to require the Crime Victims Services Bureau to provide the victim with information relative to the reentry statement; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 46:1844(A)(2)(b) and (d), (M)(1) and (2), (O), and (R) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 46:1844(A)(2)(e) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1844. Basic rights for victim and witness

A. Services and information concerning services available to victims and witnesses of a crime.

\* \* \*

(2) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall maintain the Crime Victims Services Bureau presently in operation. The bureau shall publicize and provide a way for crime victims and their family members to be kept informed about the following:

\* \* \*

1 (b) ~~Parole board~~ Committee on parole or pardon board hearings or other  
2 release hearings.

3 \* \* \*

4 (d) Beginning August 1, 2018, information regarding the process by which  
5 a victim may provide a reentry statement to request that the inmate be subject to  
6 certain proximity or contact restrictions as part of the inmate's parole conditions, if  
7 the inmate appeared before the committee on parole and was granted parole by the  
8 committee, and information on the availability of assistance to the victim in  
9 completing the reentry statement.

10 (e) Inquiries concerning the department's policies and programs for inmates.

11 \* \* \*

12 M. Victims' right to seek restitution.

13 (1) If the defendant is found guilty, the court or committee on parole ~~board~~  
14 shall require the defendant to pay restitution to the appropriate party in an amount  
15 and manner determined by the court. In addition, the court or committee on parole  
16 ~~board~~ may require the defendant to perform community service work in an amount  
17 and according to a schedule determined by the court.

18 (2) One of the conditions of work release shall be a requirement that an  
19 inmate pay from his earnings all restitution ordered by the court or the committee on  
20 ~~parole board~~. Even if no restitution has been ordered, the sheriff or director of the  
21 program shall have the right to require payment of restitution as a condition of work  
22 release.

23 \* \* \*

24 O. Notification of pardon or parole.

25 (1) The Board of Pardons or the ~~Board of Parole~~ committee on parole,  
26 respectively, shall notify the victim or the victim's family and the appropriate district  
27 attorney that a hearing has been set for the person convicted of the crime against the  
28 victim. The victim or victim's family shall have the right to make written and oral  
29 statements as to the impact of the crime at any hearing before ~~either~~ the board or  
30 committee and to rebut any statements or evidence introduced by the inmate or

1           defendant. The victim or the victim's family, a victim advocacy group, and the  
 2           district attorney or his representative may also appear before ~~either~~ the board or  
 3           committee in person or by means of telephone communication from the office of the  
 4           local district attorney.

5                     (2) Beginning August 1, 2018, when an inmate in physical custody is within  
 6           three months of his earliest projected release date, a registered victim may contact  
 7           the Crime Victim Services Bureau to submit a reentry statement to the committee on  
 8           parole requesting that the inmate be subject to certain proximity or contact  
 9           restrictions, as part of the inmate's parole conditions, that the victim believes are  
 10          necessary for the victim's protection. The committee on parole may consider the  
 11          victim's reentry statement only for the purpose of determining the inmate's parole  
 12          conditions and not for the purpose of determining whether to order the release of the  
 13          inmate on parole. A victim's reentry statement is not binding on the committee on  
 14          parole, but shall be considered in concert with other relevant information when  
 15          setting parole conditions. The provisions of this Paragraph apply only to those  
 16          persons who are to appear at a hearing before the committee on parole to determine  
 17          whether the person should be granted parole.

18   \*       \*       \*

19                     R. Preparation of victim notice and registration forms.

20                     (1) The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of  
 21          Criminal Justice shall cause to be promulgated uniform victim notice and registration  
 22          forms which outline and explain the rights and services established by this Chapter.  
 23          This information shall be updated as necessary. The costs of developing the victim  
 24          notice and registration form shall be funded by the Louisiana Commission on Law  
 25          Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

26                     (2) To the extent that funding is available for such purposes, the Louisiana  
 27          Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice shall  
 28          develop and provide, by August 1, 2018, a system by which an agency may choose

1 to complete and submit the uniform victim notice and registration form electronically  
2 and by which a victim may choose to receive all notices electronically.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_