

SENATE BILL NO. 320

BY SENATORS MORRELL, BARROW AND COLOMB AND REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:1844(G), relative to rights of crime victims and witnesses; to
3 provide for the rights of family of crime victims; to provide for designated courtroom
4 seating; to provide for separation of certain individuals; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 46:1844(G) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1844. Basic rights for victim and witness

9 * * *

10 G. The victim and witness in the court setting. The court shall provide,
11 whenever possible, a secure waiting area during court proceedings which does not
12 require victims, witnesses, or ~~homicide~~ victims' families to be in close proximity to
13 the defendants, or their families or friends, and shall provide a secure waiting area
14 in cases involving violent crimes. **Upon request of a victim, victim's family, or**
15 **witness, the court shall also provide, whenever possible, designated seating in**
16 **a courtroom for victims, victims' families, and witnesses separate from**
17 **defendants, defendants' families, or witnesses for defendants. The designated**
18 **seating area should be positioned, whenever possible, in the courtroom in a way**
19 **that does not require victims, victims' families, and witnesses to be in close**

1 proximity to defendants, defendants' families, or witnesses for defendants.

2 * * *

3 Section 2. This Act shall be known and may be referred to as "The Jason Fourmy
4 Act".

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____