

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 508

2022 Regular Session

Gregory Miller

CRIME/SEX OFFENSES: Provides relative to notification when an inmate convicted of a violent or sexual offense is scheduled to be released

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Clarifies the responsibilities of the DPS&C relative to victim notification as provided in proposed law.
3. Changes "victim, family member, or witness" to "registered person" regarding notice by electronic communications.
4. Requires a registered person to opt in for notice by electronic communications and provides that notification is complete upon transmission.
5. Designates proposed law as the "Becnel Survivor Notification Act".

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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

Present law (R.S. 46:1844(N)) provides for duties of the DPS&C.

Present law (R.S. 46:1844(N)(2)) provides that one of the powers and duties of the DPS&C, at the time of the appeal, discharge, or parole of an inmate including a juvenile inmate, is to notify the victim, family member, or witness, by certified mail of such appeal or release upon filing of a victim notice and registration form by a victim or a family member, or a witness.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that one of the powers and duties of the DPS&C, at the time of the appeal, discharge, or parole of an inmate including a juvenile inmate, is to notify all registered persons by mail or electronic communications of such appeal or release.

Proposed law provides that when an inmate who has been convicted of a crime of violence as defined in present law (R.S. 14:2(B)) or a sex offense as defined in present law (R.S. 15:541) is eligible for release pursuant to present law (R.S. 15:571.3), the DPS&C shall, if known by the department, notify the victim or the victim's family, all persons who have filed a victim registration and notification form, the appropriate law enforcement agency, and the appropriate district attorney no later than 60 days prior to the inmate's release.

Proposed law provides that notice by electronic communications shall be allowed only in instances where the registered person has opted-in to such form of notification during the registration process and is complete upon transmission.

Provides that proposed law shall be referred to as the "Becnel Survivor Notification Act".

(Amends R.S. 46:1844(N)(2))