

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 734

BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 14:130.1(B)(1) and (3) and to enact R.S. 14:130.1(A)(5), (B)(5),
3 and (C) and R.S. 46:1844(Y), relative to victim notification; to provide relative to
4 the elements of the crime of obstruction of justice; to provide relative to the penalties
5 for the crime of obstruction of justice; to provide for a definition; to provide relative
6 to the contacting of a victim's family in a case where the death penalty has been
7 imposed; to provide for notification procedures; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 14:130.1(B)(1) and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
10 14:130.1(A)(5), (B)(5), and (C) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §130.1. Obstruction of justice

12 A. The crime of obstruction of justice is any of the following when
13 committed with the knowledge that such act has, reasonably may, or will affect an
14 actual or potential present, past, or future criminal proceeding as described in this
15 Section:

16 * * *

17 (5) Contacting a family member of the victim in a manner that knowingly
18 and intentionally violates the provisions of R.S. 46:1844(Y).

19 B. Whoever commits the crime of obstruction of justice shall be subject to
20 the following penalties:

21 (1) When the obstruction of justice involves a criminal proceeding in which
22 a sentence of death or life imprisonment may be imposed, except as provided in

1 (d) Any person or group who actually or purports to represent the offender
2 or the interests of the offender.

3 (2) Upon conviction in cases where the sentence is the death penalty, the
4 victim's family shall be notified by the victim service coordinator of their right to not
5 be contacted by any person, group, or entity who actually or purports to represent the
6 offender or the interests of the offender in subsequent clemency procedures, unless
7 an appointment has been requested, approved, and arranged through the victim
8 service coordinator. The victim service coordinator shall provide a form to the
9 victim's family to request that the victim's family not be contacted in any manner by
10 any person, group, or entity who actually or purports to represent the offender or the
11 interests of the offender related to clemency procedures. The victim service
12 coordinator shall provide notice of this document by United States mail to each party
13 in the case.

14 (3) Whoever violates the provisions of this Subsection shall be punished in
15 accordance with R.S. 14:130.1(B)(5).

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____