

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 320

BY SENATORS MORRELL, BARROW AND COLOMB AND REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. Provides for designated seating in a courtroom. (8/1/16)

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 party, the court shall also

15 provide, if possible, designated seating in a courtroom for victims, victim's

16 family, and witnesses separate from any defendant, defendant's family, or

17 witness for a defendant. The designated seating area should be positioned,

