The original instrument was prepared by Ashley Menou. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Linda Nugent.

DIGEST 2016 Regular Session

Morrell

<u>Present law</u> requires courts, when possible, to provide a secure waiting area during court proceedings for victims, witnesses, or homicide victim's families that does not require them to be in close proximity to the defendants, or their families or friends. Provides a court must without exception provide a secure waiting area in cases involving violent crimes.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> but does not limit <u>present law</u> to homicide victims' families only. Further provides that upon request of a victim, victim's family, or witness, and whenever possible, the court must also provide designated seating in a courtroom for victims, victims' families, and witnesses that does not require them to be in close proximity to defendants, defendants' families, or witnesses for defendants.

Effective August 1, 2016.

SB 320 Reengrossed

(Amends R.S. 46:1844(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Adds requirement that a party request designated seating in a courtroom.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

- 1. Specifies that the request for designated seating shall be made by the victim, victim's family, or witness.
- 2. Legislative Bureau technical amendments.