

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 551

Short Title: Strengthening Victims' Rights. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Dollar, R. Turner, Destin Hall, and Earle (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House, if favorable, Judiciary I

April 5, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW AND CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO
3 PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTIONS AND SAFEGUARDS TO VICTIMS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
6 rewritten:

7 "**Sec. 37. Rights of victims of crime.**

8 (1) Basic rights. Victims of ~~crime, as prescribed by law,~~crime shall be entitled to the
9 following basic rights:

- 10 (a) ~~The right as prescribed by law to be informed of and to be present at~~
11 ~~court~~right, upon request, to reasonable and timely notice of, and to be
12 present at criminal and juvenile proceedings of the accused.
- 13 (b) ~~The right to be heard at sentencing or disposition of the accused in a manner~~
14 ~~prescribed by law, and at other times as prescribed by law or deemed~~
15 ~~appropriate by the court.~~any proceeding involving release, plea, parole, and
16 during which a right of the victim is implicated.
- 17 (c) ~~The right as prescribed by law to receive~~full and timely restitution from the
18 defendant.
- 19 (d) ~~The right as prescribed by law to be given information about the crime, how~~
20 ~~the criminal justice system works, the rights of victims, and the availability~~
21 ~~of services for victims.~~
- 22 (e) ~~The right as prescribed by law to receive information about the conviction or~~
23 ~~final disposition and sentence of the accused.~~
- 24 (f) ~~The right as prescribed by law~~right, upon request, to receive notification of
25 escape, release, proposed parole or pardon of the accused, or notice of a
26 reprieve or commutation of the accused's sentence.
- 27 (g) ~~The right as prescribed by law to present their views and concerns to the~~
28 ~~Governor or agency considering any action that could result in the release of~~
29 ~~the accused, prior to such action becoming effective.~~
- 30 (h) ~~The right as prescribed by law to confer with the prosecution.~~
- 31 (i) The right to reasonable protection from the accused or anyone acting at the
32 direction of the accused.
- 33 (j) The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay and a prompt
34 conclusion of the case.



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