

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17—SENATORS ROBERSON,
HARRIS, FARLEY; HARDY AND SETTELMAYER

MARCH 16, 2015

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to
expand the rights guaranteed to victims of crime.
(BDR C-952)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Proposing to amend the Nevada
Constitution to expand the rights guaranteed to victims of
crime by adopting a victims' bill of rights.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under the Nevada Constitution, the Legislature is required to provide by law for certain rights of the victims of crimes, in particular, the right to be informed of the status of criminal proceedings concerning those crimes, the right to be present at public hearings concerning those crimes and the right to be heard at all proceedings for the sentencing or release of persons convicted of those crimes. (Nev. Const. Art. 1, § 8)

This resolution proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to eliminate the existing provisions of Article 1, section 8, concerning victims' rights and to add a new section that sets forth an expanded list of such rights in the form of a victims' bill of rights. The new section is modeled after the victims' bill of rights set forth in the California Constitution as it was amended in 2008 by what is commonly referred to as Marsy's Law. (Cal. Const. Art. 1, § 28)

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
NEVADA, JOINTLY, That a new section, designated Section 23, be
added to Article 1 of the Nevada Constitution to read as follows:

***Sec. 23. 1. Each person who is the victim of a crime
is entitled to the following rights:***

***(a) To be treated with fairness and respect for his or her
privacy and dignity, and to be free from intimidation,***



harassment and abuse, throughout the criminal or juvenile justice process.

(b) To be reasonably protected from the defendant and persons acting on behalf of the defendant.

(c) To have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered as a factor in fixing the amount of bail and release conditions for the defendant.

(d) To prevent the disclosure of confidential information or records to the defendant which could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family.

(e) To refuse an interview or deposition request, unless under court order or subpoena, and to set reasonable conditions on the conduct of any such interview to which the victim consents.

(f) To reasonably confer with the prosecuting agency, upon request, regarding the case.

(g) To reasonable notice of all public proceedings, including delinquency proceedings, upon request, at which the defendant and the prosecutor are entitled to be present and of all parole or other postconviction release proceedings, and to be present at all such proceedings.

(h) To be heard, upon request and at the discretion of the court, at any proceeding, including any delinquency proceeding, involving a postarrest release decision, sentencing, postconviction release decision or any proceeding in which a right of the victim is at issue.

(i) To the timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the defendant.

(j) To provide information to any public officer or employee conducting a presentence investigation concerning the impact of the offense on the victim and the victim's family and any sentencing recommendations before the sentencing of the defendant.

(k) To be informed, upon request, of the conviction, sentence, place and time of incarceration, or other disposition of the defendant, the scheduled release date of the defendant and the release of or the escape by the defendant from custody.

(l) To full and timely restitution.

(m) To the prompt return of legal property when no longer needed as evidence.

(n) To be informed of all postconviction proceedings, to participate and provide information to the parole authority to be considered before the parole of the offender and to be



1 notified, upon request, of the parole or other release of the
2 offender.

3 (o) To have the safety of the victim, the victim's family
4 and the general public considered before any parole or
5 other postjudgment release decision is made.

6 (p) To have all monetary payments, money and property
7 collected from any person who has been ordered to make
8 restitution be first applied to pay the amounts ordered as
9 restitution to the victim.

10 (q) To be specifically informed of the rights enumerated
11 in this section, and to have information concerning those
12 rights be made available to the general public.

13 2. A victim has standing to assert the rights
14 enumerated in this section in any court with jurisdiction
15 over the case. The court shall promptly rule on a victim's
16 request. A defendant does not have standing to assert the
17 rights of his or her victim. This section does not alter the
18 powers, duties or responsibilities of a prosecuting attorney.
19 A victim does not have the status of a party in a criminal
20 proceeding.

21 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, no
22 person may maintain an action against this State or any
23 public officer or employee for damages or injunctive,
24 declaratory or other legal or equitable relief on behalf of a
25 victim of a crime as a result of a violation of this section or
26 any statute enacted by the Legislature pursuant thereto. No
27 such violation authorizes setting aside a conviction.

28 4. A person may maintain an action to compel a public
29 officer or employee to carry out any duty required by this
30 section or any statute enacted by the Legislature pursuant
31 thereto.

32 5. The granting of these rights to victims must not be
33 construed to deny or disparage other rights possessed by
34 victims. A parole authority shall extend the right to be heard
35 at a parole hearing to any person harmed by the offender.

36 6. The Legislature shall by law provide any other
37 measure necessary or useful to secure to victims of crime
38 the benefit of the rights set forth in this section.

39 7. As used in this section, "victim" means any person
40 directly and proximately harmed by the commission of a
41 criminal offense under any law of this State. If the victim is
42 less than 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated or
43 deceased, the term includes the legal guardian of the victim
44 or a representative of the victim's estate, member of the
45 victim's family or any other person who is appointed by the



court to act on the victim's behalf, except that the court shall not appoint the defendant as such a person.

8. This section is not intended and shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a right guaranteed to the defendant by the United States Constitution or the Nevada Constitution.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Section 8 of Article 1 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8. 1. No person shall be tried for a capital or other infamous crime (except in cases of impeachment, and in cases of the militia when in actual service and the land and naval forces in time of war, or which this State may keep, with the consent of Congress, in time of peace, and in cases of petit larceny, under the regulation of the Legislature) except on presentment or indictment of the grand jury, or upon information duly filed by a district attorney, or Attorney General of the State, and in any trial, in any court whatever, the party accused shall be allowed to appear and defend in person, and with counsel, as in civil actions. No person shall be subject to be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense; nor shall he be compelled, in any criminal case, to be a witness against himself.

2. ~~{The Legislature shall provide by law for the rights of victims of crime, personally or through a representative, to be:~~

~~—(a) Informed, upon written request, of the status or disposition of a criminal proceeding at any stage of the proceeding;~~

~~—(b) Present at all public hearings involving the critical stages of a criminal proceeding; and~~

~~—(c) Heard at all proceedings for the sentencing or release of a convicted person after trial.~~

~~3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, no person may maintain an action against the State or any public officer or employee for damages or injunctive, declaratory or other legal or equitable relief on behalf of a victim of a crime as a result of a violation of any statute enacted by the Legislature pursuant to subsection 2. No such violation authorizes setting aside a conviction or sentence or continuing or postponing a criminal proceeding.~~

~~4. A person may maintain an action to compel a public officer or employee to carry out any duty required by the Legislature pursuant to subsection 2.~~



1 ~~—5.1~~ No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or
2 property, without due process of law.
3 ~~{6.1}~~ 3. Private property shall not be taken for public use
4 without just compensation having been first made, or secured,
5 except in cases of war, riot, fire, or great public peril, in
6 which case compensation shall be afterward made.

