

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

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| Bill No.: | SB 539 |
| Version: | Proposed Committee Sub (7436) |
| Author: | Representative Tibbs Senator Reynolds |
| Date: | March 30, 2009 |
| Impact: | \$0 |

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Brad Wolgamott

The proposed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 539 requires the district attorney's office to inform the victims and witnesses of crimes of two additional rights. The right:

1. To receive written notification of how to access victim rights information from the interviewing officer or investigating detective;
2. To a speedy disposition of the charges free from unwarranted delay caused by or at the behest of the defendant or minor. In determining a date for any criminal trial or other important criminal or juvenile justice hearing, the court shall consider the interests of the victim of a crime to a speedy resolution of the charges under the same standards that govern the right to a speedy trial for a defendant or a minor. In ruling on any motion presented on behalf of a defendant or minor to continue a previously established trial or other important criminal or juvenile justice hearing, the court shall inquire into the circumstances requiring the delay and consider the interests of the victim of a crime to a speedy resolution of the case. If a continuance is granted, the court shall enter into the record the specific reason for the continuance and the procedures that have been taken to avoid further delays.

The measure requires law enforcement officer to notify the victim of a violent crime in writing of the victim's rights and any services that may be available to the victim. The notification must include telephone and address information for the local District Attorney Victim-Witness Coordinator and the website address where victims can access a full list of their rights and how to apply for crime victim compensation assistance.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Marilyn Anderson

The proposed committee substitute for engrossed SB 539 requires the district attorney's office to inform crime victims and witnesses that they have the right to receive written notification on how to access victim rights information and the right to a speedy disposition of the charges. The measure also requires the court to consider the interests of the victims of violent crime when granting a continuance or ruling on any motion presented on behalf of a defendant.

Fiscal Analysis

The proposed committee substitute for engrossed SB 539 has no significant fiscal impact.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director