

1995 SESSION

INTRODUCED

LD1517156

HOUSE BILL NO. 1316

Offered January 25, 1994

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1.1 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-11.2, relating to Victim-Offender Reconciliation Programs.

Patrons—Scott, Abbitt, Almand, Armstrong, Behm, Brickley, Cohen, Connally, Cooper, Copeland, Croshaw, Cunningham, Darner, Deeds, Dillard, Grayson, Heilig, Jackson, Jones, D.C., Jones, J.C., Keating, Miller, Murphy, Phillips, Plum, Puller, Shuler, Spruill, Stump, Van Landingham and Van Yahres; Senators: Gartlan, Holland, E.M., Howell and Lambert

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 1.1 of Title 19.2 a section numbered 19.2-11.2 as follows:

§ 19.2-11.2. Establishment of victim-offender reconciliation program.

A. Any Crime Victim and Witness Assistance Program may establish a victim-offender reconciliation program to provide an opportunity for a victim, if the accused person or offender agrees to:

1. meet with the accused person or the offender in a safe, controlled environment;

2. give to the accused person or offender, either orally or in writing, a summary of the financial, emotional, and physical effects of the offense on the victim or the victim's family; and

3. negotiate a restitution agreement to be submitted to the sentencing court for damages incurred by the victim as a result of the offense.

B. If the victim chooses to participate in a victim-offender reconciliation program under this section, the victim shall execute a waiver releasing the Crime Victim and Witness Assistance Program and the Commonwealth's attorney from civil and criminal liability for actions taken by the victim, an accused person, or an offender as a result of participation by the victim, the accused or the offender in a victim-offender reconciliation program.

C. A victim shall not be required to participate in a victim-offender reconciliation program under this section.

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