

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 492 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY VEREB, STEPHENS, BRIGGS, MARSICO, ADOLPH, BARRAR, BIZZARRO, BRADFORD, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, CORBIN, D. COSTA, M. DALEY, DeLUCA, ELLIS, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GROVE, HACKETT, HARPER, C. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HESS, JAMES, KAMPF, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KORTZ, LAWRENCE, LUCAS, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MCGINNIS, MENTZER, MILLARD, MILLER, MURT, PAINTER, PYLE, REED, REGAN, ROCK, SACCONI, SANKEY, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHLOSSBERG, S. H. SMITH, STEVENSON, TALLMAN, TOEPEL, TURZAI, DEAN, M. K. KELLER AND CALTAGIRONE, MARCH 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 11, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111),  
 2 entitled "An act providing for victims' rights; imposing  
 3 penalties; establishing remedies; establishing the Office of  
 4 Victim Advocate, the Bureau of Victims' Services, the  
 5 Victims' Services Advisory Committee, the State Offender  
 6 Supervision Fund and other funds; and making repeals,"  
 7 further providing for petitions to deny parole upon  
 8 expiration of minimum sentence.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Section 502(b) of the act of November 24, 1998  
 12 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act, amended  
 13 October 2, 2002 (P.L.839, No.121), is amended to read:

14 Section 502. Petitions to deny parole upon expiration of  
 15 minimum sentence.

16 \* \* \*

17 (b) Appearance.--[The victim or the victim's representative]

1 Notwithstanding any provision of 61 Pa.C.S. (relating to prisons  
2 and parole), the victim or the victim's representative, at his  
3 or her election, shall be permitted to appear in person before  
4 the board [or hearing examiner] or, in the alternative, the  
5 [victim's testimony may be presented by conference call] victim  
6 or victim's representative may elect to present testimony by  
7 electronic means as provided by the board. The testimony of a  
8 victim or victim's representative before the board shall be  
9 confidential. Records maintained by the department and the board  
10 pertaining to victims shall be kept separate. Current address,  
11 telephone number and any other personal information of the  
12 victim, victim's representative and family members shall be  
13 deemed confidential.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.