

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 377 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY MCGARRIGLE, ARGALL, TEPLITZ, FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, SCHWANK, BAKER, RAFFERTY, MENSCH, HUGHES, COSTA, YUDICHAK, BROWNE AND WILLIAMS, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

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," in
 7 crime victims, further providing for victims' rights.

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

10 Section 1. Section 201(3) and (12) of the act of November
 11 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act,
 12 amended June 28, 2002 (P.L.496, No.85), are amended and the
 13 section is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

14 Section 201. Rights.

15 Victims of crime have the following rights:

16 * * *

17 (2.1) To not be excluded from any criminal or juvenile
 18 proceeding in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. § 6336 (relating to
 19 conduct of hearings), unless the court, based on the record
 20 before it, determines that testimony by the victim would be

1 materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at the
2 proceeding. Before making a determination, the court shall
3 make every effort to permit the fullest attendance possible
4 by the victim and shall consider reasonable alternatives to
5 the exclusion of the victim. The reason for any exclusion
6 shall be clearly stated on the record.

7 (3) To be accompanied at all criminal and all juvenile
8 proceedings in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. § 6336 [(relating
9 to conduct of hearings)] by a family member, a victim
10 advocate or other person providing assistance or support.

11 * * *

12 (12) To be notified of the details of the final
13 disposition of the case of a juvenile consistent with 42
14 Pa.C.S. § 6336(f) [(relating to conduct of hearings)].

15 * * *

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