

HCS SB 194 -- RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS

SPONSOR: Engler (Kraus)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute repeals a provision that allows a person convicted of a nonviolent class C or class D felony to petition the court for early release after serving 120 days' imprisonment. Notification of crime victims is required when the offender has applied for, or been assigned to, a drug or alcohol treatment program.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that crime victims have a right to be notified of any criminal justice proceeding involving their cases, such as when the offender has a parole hearing. Senate Bill 5 enacted in 2003 created a procedure to allow the early release of some nonviolent offenders, but the notification of the victims of those crimes was overlooked. The bill will require that the victims of these nonviolent crimes be notified when a court has granted early release to a nonviolent offender or when a court admits the offender into a drug or alcohol treatment program.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Engler; Representative Page; and Office of the Attorney General.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst