

STATE OF NEW YORK

8817

IN ASSEMBLY

January 12, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. LAWLER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to requiring the notice to crime victims of case disposition to inform the victim that he or she has the right to attend interviews between the board of parole and incarcerated individual; and to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring the board of parole to review victim impact statements

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 440.50 of the criminal procedure
2 law, as amended by chapter 322 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read
3 as follows:

4 1. (a) Upon the request of a victim of a crime, or in any event in all
5 cases in which the final disposition includes a conviction of a violent
6 felony offense as defined in section 70.02 of the penal law, a felony
7 defined in article one hundred twenty-five of such law, or a felony
8 defined in article one hundred thirty of such law, the district attorney
9 shall, within sixty days of the final disposition of the case, inform
10 the victim by letter of such final disposition. If such final disposi-
11 tion results in the commitment of the defendant to the custody of the
12 department of corrections and community supervision for an indeterminate
13 sentence, the notice provided to the crime victim shall also inform the
14 victim of his or her right to submit a written, audiotaped, telephonic,
15 or [~~videotaped~~] video recorded victim impact statement to the department
16 of corrections and community supervision or to meet personally with a
17 member of the state board of parole at a time and place separate from
18 the personal interview between a member or members of the board and the
19 incarcerated individual and make such a statement, subject to procedures
20 and limitations contained in rules of the board, both pursuant to subdi-
21 vision two of section two hundred fifty-nine-i of the executive law. A
22 copy of such [~~letter~~] statement shall be provided to the board of parole
23 and all presiding commissioners for such hearing. The right of the
24 victim under this subdivision to submit a [~~written~~] victim impact state-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD13369-01-1

1 ment in any format or to meet personally with a member of the state
2 board of parole applies to each personal interview between a member or
3 members of the board and the incarcerated individual.

4 (b) In all cases in which the final disposition includes a felony
5 defined in article one hundred twenty-five of the penal law that
6 results in the commitment of the defendant to the custody of the depart-
7 ment of corrections and community supervision for an indeterminate
8 sentence, the notice provided to the crime victim pursuant to paragraph
9 (a) of this subdivision shall also inform the victim of his or her right
10 to attend the personal interview between members of the board of parole
11 and the incarcerated individual, whether in-person or by electronic
12 appearance as defined in section 182.10 of this chapter, and reasonably
13 express his or her opinions concerning the crime, the incarcerated indi-
14 vidual, and whether or not the incarcerated individual should be
15 released on parole, and if so released, under what conditions, subject
16 to procedures and limitations contained in the rules of the board,
17 pursuant to subdivision two of section two hundred fifty-nine-i of the
18 executive law. If the victim is present at the parole interview, the
19 board, at the victim's request, shall permit the presence of an individ-
20 ual to provide support to the victim. The right of the victim under
21 this subdivision to attend the personal interview between members of the
22 board and the incarcerated individual, whether in-person or by electron-
23 ic appearance, applies to each personal interview between a member or
24 members of the board and the incarcerated individual.

25 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 259-i of the executive law is amended by
26 adding a new paragraph (f) to read as follows:

27 (f) Immediately prior to the conduct of any hearing by the board of
28 parole as provided in this article, the members of the board and all
29 presiding commissioners for such hearing shall review all victim impact
30 statements relating to the offense or offenses of which the incarcerated
31 individual has been convicted, including victim impact statements
32 provided in connection with the pre-sentencing report and victim impact
33 statements provided directly to the board. All victim impact statements
34 provided directly to the board shall be video recorded. Failure to
35 review statements as provided in this section shall render such hearing
36 invalid.

37 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately