

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 6

Short Title: Victims Rights Amend.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Warren, Forrester; Albertson, Smith, Hoyle, Soles, Speed, Dannelly, Hobbs, Kerr, Odom, Plyler, Rand, Plexico, Lucas, Gulley, Allran, Carpenter, Ballantine, and Cooper.

Referred to: Judiciary I/Constitution.

January 26, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA TO ESTABLISH RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Article I of the Constitution of North Carolina is amended by adding a new section to read:

"Sec. 37. Rights of victims of crime.

(1) **Basic rights.** Victims of crime, as defined by law, shall be entitled to certain basic rights, including the right as defined by law to be informed of and to be present at public hearings and to be heard at sentencing or at any other time deemed appropriate by the court, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional or statutory rights of the accused.

(2) **No money damages; other enforcement.** Nothing in this section shall be construed as creating a claim for money damages against the State, a county, a municipality, or any of the agencies, instrumentalities, or employees thereof. The General Assembly may provide for other remedies to ensure adequate enforcement of this section.

(3) **No ground for relief in criminal case.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize a court to set aside or to void a finding of guilty or not guilty or an

