

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 17 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 "Crime Victims' Bill of Rights," so as to revise the number of days for advance notification  
3 to a victim by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles whenever it considers making certain  
4 decisions; to amend Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia  
5 Annotated, relating to grants of pardons, paroles, and other relief, so as to require advance  
6 notification to certain persons whenever the State Board of Pardons and Paroles considers  
7 making a final decision to grant parole to an inmate or place an inmate into transitional  
8 housing; to require publication in the legal organ of the county of an inmate's parole date or  
9 date of entry into transitional housing; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
10 laws; and for other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

12 Chapter 17 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Crime  
13 Victims' Bill of Rights," is amended by revising Code Section 17-17-13, related to  
14 notification to victim of impending parole, release for period exceeding 60 days, or pardon  
15 and notice of hearing on request to commute death sentence, as follows:  
16

17 "17-17-13.

18 The State Board of Pardons and Paroles shall give ~~20~~ 30 days' advance notification to a  
19 victim whenever it considers making a final decision to grant parole, release a defendant  
20 for a period exceeding 60 days, or grant a pardon; and the board shall provide the victim  
21 with an opportunity to file a written objection to such action. Within 72 hours of receiving  
22 a request to commute a death sentence, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles shall  
23 provide notification to a victim of the date set for hearing such request and provide such  
24 victim an opportunity to file a written response to such request. No notification to the  
25 victim need be given unless the victim has expressed a desire for such notification and has  
26 provided the State Board of Pardons and Paroles with a current mailing or e-mail address

27 and telephone number. Failure of the victim to inform the board of a change of address or  
 28 telephone number shall not void a decision of the board."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 42 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
 31 grants of pardons, paroles, and other relief, is amended by revising Code Section 42-9-47,  
 32 relating to notification of decision to parole inmate, as follows:

33 "42-9-47.

34 (a) The board shall give at least 30 days' advance notification to ~~Within 72 hours after the~~  
 35 ~~board reaches a final decision to parole an inmate;~~ the district attorney, the presiding judge,  
 36 the sheriff of each county in which ~~the~~ an inmate was tried, convicted, and sentenced, the  
 37 local law enforcement authorities of the county of the last residence of ~~the~~ an inmate prior  
 38 to incarceration, and the victim ~~of crimes against the person shall be notified of the~~  
 39 ~~decision by the chairman of the board~~ whenever it considers making a final decision to  
 40 grant parole to an inmate or place an inmate into transitional housing. Such notice to the  
 41 victim shall be mailed or e-mailed to the victim's address if such information is provided  
 42 pursuant to Code Section 17-17-13. Failure of the victim to inform the board of a change  
 43 of address shall not void a parole date set by the board.

44 (b) At least 30 days prior to the parole date of an inmate or date of entry of an inmate into  
 45 transitional housing, the board shall publish in the legal organ of each county in which the  
 46 inmate was tried, convicted, and sentenced a notice of the parole date of such inmate or  
 47 date of entry of such inmate into transitional housing."

48 **SECTION 3.**

49 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.