

House Bill 1677

By: Representative Lim of the 99th

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 enact the "Victim and Accused Reconciliation Act"; to
3 provide for victim and accused reconciliation; to provide for a short title; to provide for
4 notification; to provide for reconciliation measures; to provide for restitution agreement and
5 submission of same to the sentencing court; to provide for waiver; to provide for limitations;
6 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 17 of Title 17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the crime
10 victims' bill of rights, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

11 "17-17-8.2.

12 (a) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'Victim and Accused
13 Reconciliation Act.'

14 (b) Upon agreement from the victim in a county that has victim and witness assistance
15 services available, a prosecuting attorney shall give prompt notification to the victim of the
16 following:

H. B. 1677

- 1 -

17 (1) The opportunity for the victim to meet with the accused in a safe and controlled
18 environment;

19 (2) The opportunity to give the accused, either orally or in writing, a summary of the
20 financial, emotional, and physical effects of the offense on the victim and the victim's
21 family; and

22 (3) The opportunity to negotiate a restitution agreement for the damages incurred by the
23 victim as a result of the offense and such restitution agreement shall be submitted to the
24 sentencing court.

25 (c) If a victim participates in a victim and accused reconciliation as provided for in
26 subsection (b) of this Code section, the victim shall execute a waiver releasing:

27 (1) The prosecuting attorney responsible for the victim and witness assistance services
28 in the county; and

29 (2) The victim and witness assistance services personnel in the county from civil and
30 criminal liability for actions taken by the victim or an accused as a result of participation
31 by the victim and the accused in a victim and accused reconciliation program.

32 (d) No victim shall be required to participate in a victim and accused reconciliation as
33 provided for in subsection (b) of this Code section.

34 **SECTION 2.**

35 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.