
THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 123
Author: Seyarto (R), et al.
Introduced: 1/19/22
Vote: 21

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Read and adopted, 4/21/22

SUBJECT: Crime Victims' Rights Week

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution recognizes April 24, 2022, through April 30, 2022, as Crime Victims' Rights Week.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week has raised awareness of the special needs of crime victims.
- 2) This year, the theme for National Crime Victims' Rights Week is "Rights, access, equity, for all victims.". The 2022 theme underscores the importance of helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all. We all have a part to play in reaching crime victims, especially those in marginalized communities, and supporting them on their healing journey.
- 3) The respect for and protection of victims' rights within the legal process is one of the most critical components of an effective criminal justice system. Victims and witnesses of crime require special attention to ensure that they are thoroughly informed about, and effectively participate in, the criminal justice system.
- 4) Each day thousands of victims and witnesses receive assistance from victim support organizations, victim-witness assistance centers, private service providers, and state and local governments.

- 5) The criminal justice system in this state must persist in its effort to better coordinate and improve the quality of services provided to victims and witnesses.
- 6) California has been an innovator in the victims' rights movement, establishing the first crime victim compensation program in the nation in 1965, Women's Advocates and Haven House in Pasadena established the first shelters for battered women in the nation in 1976, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving was founded in 1980 with the establishment of a chapter in Sacramento.
- 7) California citizens enshrined victims' rights in the California Constitution in 1982 through the passage of Proposition 8, the Victims' Bill of Rights; and reaffirmed and afforded additional rights to victims in the California Constitution and in California law in 2008 through the passage of Proposition 9, the Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008: Marsy's Law.
- 8) Each year, the observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week focuses on the problems confronting victims of crime and the services available to support these victims. The remembrances observed during National Crime Victims' Rights Week promote awareness of victims' issues and acknowledge the combined efforts of citizens, the government, and the criminal justice system to improve victims' services in California.

This resolution recognizes April 24, 2022, through April 30, 2022, as Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Comments

According to the author, "ACR 123 recognizes the week of April 24th through April 30th as Crime Victims' Rights Week. This week serves to promote and raise awareness about crime victims' rights, protections, and services as they seek justice, as well as recognize the efforts of citizens and members of the criminal justice system who offer support."

Related/Prior Legislation

The following are the most recent measures relating to Crime Victims' Rights Week:

- SR 24 (Umberg, 2021) – adopted by the Senate (36-0) on April 29, 2021.
- ACR 167 (Ramos, 2020) – died in Assembly Rules Committee.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/3/22)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/3/22)

None received

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5/4/22 14:18:50

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