

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 176

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 5, 1998

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 176.

This bill requires the Department of Corrections to notify the prosecutor and the victim whenever an inmate who is incarcerated for a violent crime is scheduled for a custody status review which might result in a reduced custody classification that would make him eligible to leave the correctional facility to participate in a community release agreement program, halfway house program or substance abuse treatment program.

Under the provisions of the bill, the classification officer of the Institutional Classification Committee of each correctional facility is required to give written notice of these custody status reclassification hearings to the county prosecutor or Attorney General, depending upon who prosecuted the case. The written notice also is to be transmitted to the victim or, if the crime resulted in death, the victim's nearest relative, but only if requested at the time of sentencing.

The bill specifies that the prosecutor or Attorney General, as the case may be, and the victim or victim's nearest relative, as the case may be, have 10 working days in which to submit comments to the Institutional Classification Committee. Any comments submitted are deemed confidential and may not be disclosed to unauthorized persons.