

By Senator Fasano

11-614-03

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to plea agreements; amending s.
 3 921.143, F.S.; prohibiting the court from
 4 accepting a plea agreement that prohibits a law
 5 enforcement officer from appearing at a parole
 6 hearing or clemency hearing; prohibiting a plea
 7 agreement that prohibits a law enforcement
 8 officer who was a victim in the offense from
 9 appearing or providing a statement at the
 10 sentencing hearing; defining the term "law
 11 enforcement officer" for purposes of the act;
 12 specifying that the act does not impair certain
 13 rights afforded by law or the State
 14 Constitution; providing an effective date.

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 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18 Section 1. Section 921.143, Florida Statutes, is
 19 amended to read:
 20 921.143 Appearance of victim, law enforcement officer,
 21 or next of kin to make statement at sentencing hearing;
 22 submission of written statement.--

23 (1) At the sentencing hearing, and prior to the
 24 imposition of sentence upon any defendant who has been
 25 convicted of any felony or who has pleaded guilty or nolo
 26 contendere to any crime, including a criminal violation of a
 27 provision of chapter 316, the sentencing court shall permit
 28 the victim of the crime for which the defendant is being
 29 sentenced, the victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a
 30 minor, the lawful representative of the victim or of the
 31 victim's parent or guardian if the victim is a minor, or the

1 next of kin of the victim if the victim has died from causes
2 related to the crime, to:

3 (a) Appear before the sentencing court for the purpose
4 of making a statement under oath for the record; and

5 (b) Submit a written statement under oath to the
6 office of the state attorney, which statement shall be filed
7 with the sentencing court.

8 (2) The state attorney or any assistant state attorney
9 shall advise all victims or, when appropriate, the victim's
10 parent, guardian, next of kin, or lawful representative that
11 statements, whether oral or written, shall relate to the facts
12 of the case and the extent of any harm, including social,
13 psychological, or physical harm, financial losses, loss of
14 earnings directly or indirectly resulting from the crime for
15 which the defendant is being sentenced, and any matter
16 relevant to an appropriate disposition and sentence.

17 (3) The court may not accept a plea agreement that
18 prohibits a law enforcement officer from appearing or speaking
19 at a parole hearing or clemency hearing.

20 (a) In any case in which the victim is a law
21 enforcement officer, a plea agreement may not prohibit the
22 officer or an authorized representative of the officer's
23 employing agency from appearing or providing a statement at
24 the sentencing hearing. As used in this subsection, the term
25 "law enforcement officer" has the meaning ascribed in s.
26 943.10.

27 (b) This subsection does not impair any right afforded
28 under chapter 960 or under s. 16(b), Art. I of the State
29 Constitution.

30 (4)~~(3)~~ The court may refuse to accept a negotiated
31 plea and order the defendant to stand trial.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

SENATE SUMMARY

Provides that the court may not accept a plea agreement that prohibits a law enforcement officer from appearing at certain hearings. Provides that a plea agreement may not prohibit the law enforcement officer who was a victim in the case from appearing or providing a statement at the sentencing hearing.