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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to justice for crime victims; creating s.
 943.0315, F.S.; providing legislative findings; creating
 the Commission on Justice for Crime Victims within the
 Department of Law Enforcement; providing membership;
 requiring the commission to review the needs of persons
 who are the victims of crime in this state; requiring the
 commission to review and comment on specified issues;
 requiring the commission to hold public hearings each
 year; requiring an annual report; providing for
 reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses; authorizing
 the commission to employ an executive director and other
 staff; requiring the commission to expire on a certain
 date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 943.0315, Florida Statutes, is created
 to read:

943.0315 Commission on Justice for Crime Victims.--The
Legislature finds that there is a need to develop and implement
a statewide strategy to address the needs of persons who are the
victims of crime in this state. The Legislature also finds that
there is a need to understand the severity of the losses
incurred by victims and their families and to evaluate the
services available to respond to the needs of the victims. In
recognition of these needs, the Commission on Justice for Crime
Victims is created within the Department of Law Enforcement. The

29 commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the
30 department.

31 (1)(a) The commission shall be composed of 15 members. The
32 secretary of each agency that includes a criminal justice
33 program shall personally serve as a member of the commission.
34 Additional members of the commission shall be appointed by the
35 Governor and may include the Governor's victims' rights
36 advocate; the director of the Crime Victims' Services Office
37 within the Department of Legal Affairs; a state attorney; a
38 sheriff; a police chief; a circuit judge; a representative of
39 the Florida Network of Victim Witness Services, Inc.; and a
40 representative of the Justice Coalition. The Governor shall
41 appoint at least three members who have been the victim of a
42 crime, one of whom must be related either to a victim of murder
43 or to the surviving spouse of a victim of murder.

44 (b) The appointments must be made by September 1, 2005,
45 and the commission shall hold its first meeting within 60 days
46 after the appointment of its members is completed. Any vacancy
47 that occurs on the commission must be filled in the same manner
48 as the original appointment.

49 (2) Members of the commission are entitled to one vote
50 each, and an action of the commission is not binding unless a
51 majority of the total number of votes cast are in favor of the
52 action. The commission may not act unless a majority of its
53 members are present at a meeting. The commission shall elect a
54 chairperson from among its members.

55 (3) The commission shall review the nature and severity of
56 the losses and other associated difficulties suffered by crime

57 victims and families of victims of murder and shall review the
58 state's services provided to victims as well as other responses
59 to the needs of victims. In addition, the commission should
60 consider other factors adversely affecting victims, including
61 delays in capital cases and recommendations for judicial reforms
62 to reduce the delays. Included in the commission's review must
63 be an evaluation of:

64 (a) The services available to victims as described in s.
65 960.001(1)(a).

66 (b) The imposition, collection, and distribution of the
67 surcharge described in s. 938.08 and the fee required in s.
68 938.03 to be paid to the Crimes Compensation Trust Fund.

69 (c) The imposition, collection, and distribution of victim
70 restitution.

71 (d) The necessary state constitutional reforms that would
72 facilitate the resolution of capital cases within 5 years after
73 the imposition of sentence.

74 (4) The commission shall hold at least four public
75 hearings annually throughout the state to solicit input from the
76 public regarding justice for victims, victims' concerns,
77 restitution for victims, judicial reforms that would reduce the
78 suffering of crime victims and their families and improve the
79 treatment of victims and their families in state courts, and
80 other relevant issues. The commission shall devote at least one
81 public hearing to the issues facing families of victims of
82 murder, delays in capital cases, and proposals to reduce these
83 delays in this state. The commission must review laws in other
84 states in which the delays have been reduced.

85 (5) The commission must submit a report to the Governor,
86 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
87 Representatives on or before February 1 of each year. The report
88 shall contain specific recommendations for enhancing justice for
89 victims of crime, including the families of murder victims in
90 capital cases. The recommendations of the commission must
91 include proposed legislation and constitutional reforms that
92 will improve justice for victims of crime and family members of
93 victims of murder.

94 (6) Commission members may not receive remuneration for
95 their services, but members are entitled to reimbursement for
96 travel and per diem expenses in accordance with s. 112.061.

97 (7) The commission, with approval from the Executive
98 Office of the Governor, may employ or contract with an executive
99 director who possesses at least 5 years' previous experience in
100 criminal law and legislative affairs and has worked directly
101 with victims of crime and with families of victims of murder.
102 The executive director may employ or contract with two
103 additional staff members or consultants who have relevant
104 experience in the field of crime victims' rights or data
105 analysis and one administrative assistant. The Department of Law
106 Enforcement shall provide administrative support to the
107 commission and its staff.

108 (8) The commission shall expire on June 30, 2009.

109 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.