

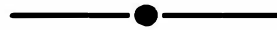
HB 4296

FILED

2008 MAR 31 PM 12: 25

GENE W. FINN  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2008



**ENROLLED**

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
House Bill No. 4296**

(By Delegates Canterbury, Campbell and Crosier)



Passed March 8, 2008

In Effect Ninety Days from Passage

**ENROLLED**

FILED

2008 MAR 31 PM 12:26

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**H. B. 4296**

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(BY DELEGATES CANTERBURY, CAMPBELL AND CROSIER)

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[Passed March 8, 2008; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §53-4A-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the rights of crime victims; requiring that prosecuting attorneys provide notice to victims of crimes of violence or next of kin in homicides when a habeas corpus proceeding vacates a conviction or sentence and the victim or next of kin previously provides names and addresses.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §53-4A-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 4A. POST-CONVICTION HABEAS CORPUS.**

**§53-4A-7. Denial of relief; hearings; evidence; record; judgment.**

1 (a) If the petition, affidavits, exhibits, records and other  
2 documentary evidence attached thereto, or the return or other  
3 pleadings, or the record in the proceedings which resulted in  
4 the conviction and sentence, or the record or records in a  
5 proceeding or proceedings on a prior petition or petitions  
6 filed under the provisions of this article, or the record or  
7 records in any other proceeding or proceedings instituted by  
8 the petitioner to secure relief from his conviction or sentence,  
9 show to the satisfaction of the court that the petitioner is  
10 entitled to no relief, or that the contention or contentions and  
11 grounds (in fact or law) advanced have been previously and  
12 finally adjudicated or waived, the court shall enter an order  
13 denying the relief sought. If it appears to the court from said  
14 petition, affidavits, exhibits, records and other documentary  
15 evidence attached thereto, or the return or other pleadings, or  
16 any such record or records referred to above, that there is  
17 probable cause to believe that the petitioner may be entitled  
18 to some relief and that the contention or contentions and  
19 grounds (in fact or law) advanced have not been previously  
20 and finally adjudicated or waived, the court shall promptly  
21 hold a hearing and/or take evidence on the contention or  
22 contentions and grounds (in fact or law) advanced, and the  
23 court shall pass upon all issues of fact without a jury. The  
24 court may also provide for one or more hearings to be held  
25 and/or evidence to be taken in any other county or counties  
26 in the state.

27 (b) A record of all proceedings under this article and all  
28 hearings and evidence shall be made and kept. The  
29 evidentiary depositions of witnesses taken by either the  
30 petitioner or the state, on reasonable notice to the other, may  
31 be read as evidence. The court may receive proof by proper  
32 oral testimony or other proper evidence. All of the evidence  
33 shall be made a part of the record. When a hearing is held  
34 and/or evidence is taken by a judge of a circuit court or  
35 statutory court in vacation, a transcript of the proceedings  
36 shall be signed by the judge and certified to the clerk of the

37 court in which the judgment is to be rendered, and be entered  
38 by him among the records of that court. A record of all  
39 proceedings in the supreme court of appeals shall be entered  
40 among the records of such court.

41 (c) When the court determines to deny or grant relief, as  
42 the case may be, the court shall enter an appropriate order  
43 with respect to the conviction or sentence in the former  
44 criminal proceedings and such supplementary matters as are  
45 deemed necessary and proper to the findings in the case,  
46 including, but not limited to, remand, the vacating or setting  
47 aside of the plea, conviction and sentence, arraignment,  
48 retrial, custody, bail, discharge, correction of sentence and  
49 resentencing, or other matters which may be necessary and  
50 proper. In any order entered in accordance with the  
51 provisions of this section, the court shall make specific  
52 findings of fact and conclusions of law relating to each  
53 contention or contentions and grounds (in fact or law)  
54 advanced, shall clearly state the grounds upon which the  
55 matter was determined, and shall state whether a federal  
56 and/or state right was presented and decided. Any order  
57 entered in accordance with the provisions of this section shall  
58 constitute a final judgment, and, unless reversed, shall be  
59 conclusive.

60 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
61 whenever a conviction from a crime of violence is reversed  
62 or a sentence of incarceration for such an offence is vacated  
63 pursuant to the provisions of this article, the prosecuting  
64 attorney of the county of prosecution shall, prior to a retrial  
65 or entering into any plea negotiations or sentence  
66 negotiations to resolve the matter, notify the victim or if the  
67 offence was a homicide, the next of kin of the victim, by  
68 United States mail sent to the last known address of said  
69 person, if his or her name and address has previously been  
70 provided to the prosecuting attorney.

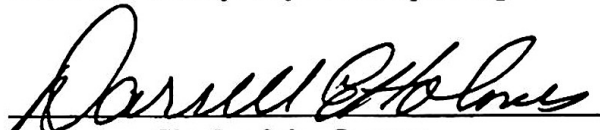
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

  
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Chairman Senate Committee

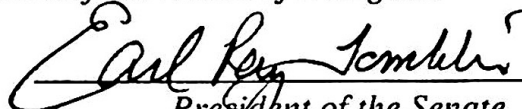
  
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Chairman House Committee


Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

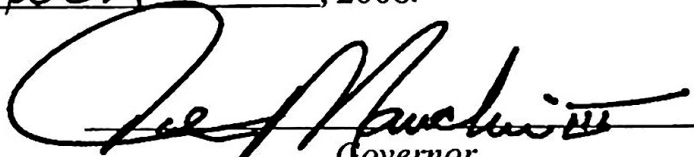
  
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Clerk of the Senate

  
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Clerk of the House of Delegates

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 3/8  
day of March, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE  
GOVERNOR

MAR 25 2008

Time 10:35pm