

No. 2013-14

AN ACT

HB 492

Amending the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111), entitled "An act providing for victims' rights; imposing penalties; establishing remedies; establishing the Office of Victim Advocate, the Bureau of Victims' Services, the Victims' Services Advisory Committee, the State Offender Supervision Fund and other funds; and making repeals," further providing for petitions to deny parole upon expiration of minimum sentence.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 502(b) of the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act, amended October 2, 2002 (P.L.839, No.121), is amended to read:

Section 502. Petitions to deny parole upon expiration of minimum sentence.

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(b) Appearance.—The victim or the victim's representative shall be permitted to appear in person *and provide testimony* before the **[board or hearing examiner] panel or the majority of those board members charged with making the parole release decision** or, in the alternative, the victim's *or victim's representative's* testimony may be presented by **[conference call] electronic means as provided by the board**. The testimony of a victim **[before the board] or victim's representative** shall be confidential. Records maintained by the department and the board pertaining to victims shall be kept separate. **Current] from other records, and these victim records, including current** address, telephone number and any other personal information of the victim and family members, shall be deemed confidential.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect September 1, 2013, or immediately, whichever is later.

APPROVED—The 18th day of June, A.D. 2013

TOM CORBETT