

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHJM 4020

As of March 28, 1997

Brief Description: Requesting Congress adopt the proposed victims' rights amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Sponsors: Representatives Ballasiotes, Costa, Radcliff, Cole, Hankins, Quall, Skinner, Morris, Thompson, Poulsen, Kenney, DeBolt, Conway, Mason, Benson, Cooper, Delvin, Blalock, Honeyford, Dunshee, Van Luven, Zellinsky, Mulliken, Alexander, Scott, L. Thomas, Clements, Parlette, Mastin, Chandler, Schoesler, Robertson and Linville.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Law & Justice: 4/3/97.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

Staff: Martin Lovinger (786-7443)

Background: In 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime recommended an amendment to the Constitution of the United States addressing the rights of victims.

In 1989, the citizens of Washington State adopted an amendment to the state Constitution granting a number of rights to victims of felony crimes and to the families of victims.

The number of crime victims is increasing and it is felt that the criminal justice system is no longer in balance with regard to the rights of victims and the rights of criminals.

Summary of Bill: Congress is requested to adopt the proposed victims' rights amendment to the Constitution of the United States and submit it to the states for ratification.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.