

# HOUSE BILL NO. 4423

April 13, 2023, Introduced by Reps. VanWoerkom, Young, Brixie, Farhat, Byrnes, Outman, Kunse, Bezotte, Tisdell, Filler, BeGole, Arbit, Wilson, Brenda Carter, Hope, Bierlein, Scott, Glanville, Dievendorf, McFall, Hoskins, Morgan, Mueller, Fitzgerald, Steckloff, Schuette, Paiz, Liberati, Weiss, Neeley, Miller, Tyrone Carter, Meerman, Beson, Coffia, Skaggs, Brabec and Aiyash and referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice.

A bill to amend 1985 PA 87, entitled  
"William Van Regenmorter crime victim's rights act,"  
by amending sections 15, 43, and 75 (MCL 780.765, 780.793, and  
780.825), as amended by 2018 PA 153.

## **THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 15. (1) The victim has the right to appear and make an  
2 oral impact statement at the sentencing of the defendant. If the  
3 victim is physically or emotionally unable to make the oral impact  
4 statement, the victim may designate any other person 18 years of  
5 age or older who is neither the defendant nor incarcerated to make

1 the statement on ~~his or her~~ **the victim's** behalf. The other person  
2 need not be an attorney. **The victim may elect to remotely provide**  
3 **the oral impact statement under this section.**

4 (2) Unless the court has determined, in its discretion, that  
5 the defendant is behaving in a disruptive manner or presents a  
6 threat to the safety of any individuals present in the courtroom,  
7 the defendant must be physically present in the courtroom at the  
8 time a victim makes an oral impact statement under subsection (1).  
9 In making its determination under this subsection, the court may  
10 consider any relevant statement provided by the victim regarding  
11 the defendant being physically present during that victim's oral  
12 impact statement. This subsection applies to cases in which the  
13 sentencing of the defendant occurs ~~on or after the effective date~~  
14 ~~of the amendatory act that added this subsection.~~ **May 22, 2018.**

15 (3) ~~The 2018 amendatory act that PA 153, which~~ amended this  
16 section and sections 43 and 75, ~~shall be known and may be cited as~~  
17 the "Rebekah Bletsch law".

18 Sec. 43. (1) The victim has the right to appear and make an  
19 oral impact statement at the juvenile's disposition or sentencing.  
20 If the victim is physically or emotionally unable to make the oral  
21 impact statement, the victim may designate any other person 18  
22 years of age or older who is neither the defendant nor incarcerated  
23 to make the statement on ~~his or her~~ **the victim's** behalf. The other  
24 person need not be an attorney. **The victim may elect to remotely**  
25 **provide the oral impact statement under this section.**

26 (2) ~~Upon~~ **On** request, ~~the victim shall be notified by the~~  
27 prosecuting attorney, or, ~~pursuant to~~ **in accordance with** an  
28 agreement under section 48a, the court, **shall notify the victim** of  
29 the disposition of the juvenile's offense not more than 30 days

1 after the disposition is made.

2 (3) Unless the court has determined, in its discretion, that  
 3 the juvenile is behaving in a disruptive manner or presents a  
 4 threat to the safety of any individuals present in the courtroom,  
 5 the juvenile must be physically present in the courtroom at the  
 6 time a victim makes an oral impact statement under subsection (1).  
 7 In making its determination under this subsection, the court may  
 8 consider any relevant statement provided by the victim regarding  
 9 the juvenile being physically present during that victim's oral  
 10 impact statement. This subsection applies to cases in which the  
 11 sentencing of the juvenile occurs ~~on or after the effective date of~~  
 12 ~~the amendatory act that added this subsection.~~ **May 22, 2018.**

13 (4) ~~The 2018 amendatory act that~~ **PA 153, which** amended this  
 14 section and sections 15 and 75, ~~shall be known and~~ may be cited as  
 15 the "Rebekah Bletsch law".

16 Sec. 75. (1) If no presentence report is prepared, the court  
 17 shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the date and time of  
 18 sentencing at least 10 days ~~prior to~~ **before** the sentencing. The  
 19 victim has the right to submit a written impact statement and has  
 20 the right to appear and make an oral impact statement at the  
 21 sentencing of the defendant. If the victim is physically or  
 22 emotionally unable to make the oral impact statement, the victim  
 23 may designate any other person 18 years of age or older who is  
 24 neither the defendant nor incarcerated to make the statement on ~~his~~  
 25 ~~or her~~ **the victim's** behalf. The other person need not be an  
 26 attorney. **The victim may elect to remotely provide the oral impact**  
 27 **statement under this section.** The court shall consider the victim's  
 28 statement in imposing sentence on the defendant.

29 (2) Unless the court has determined, in its discretion, that

1 the defendant is behaving in a disruptive manner or presents a  
2 threat to the safety of any individuals present in the courtroom,  
3 the defendant must be physically present in the courtroom at the  
4 time a victim makes an oral impact statement under subsection (1).  
5 In making its determination under this subsection, the court may  
6 consider any relevant statement provided by the victim regarding  
7 the defendant being physically present during that victim's oral  
8 impact statement. This subsection applies to cases in which the  
9 sentencing of the defendant occurs ~~on or after the effective date~~  
10 ~~of the amendatory act that added this subsection.~~ **May 22, 2018.**

11 (3) ~~The 2018 amendatory act that~~ **PA 153, which** amended this  
12 section and sections 15 and 43, ~~shall be known and may be cited as~~  
13 the "Rebekah Bletsch law".