



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

**Proposed Bill No. 136**

LCO No. 398

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:  
SEN. MEYER, 12th Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS IN CAPITAL MURDER CASES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That section 53a-46d of the general statutes be amended to provide  
2 that in capital felony cases (1) a surviving family member or his or her  
3 legal representative may appear personally before the jury or, if there  
4 is no jury, the court to present a victim impact statement prior to the  
5 jury or, if there is no jury, the court rendering its findings as to the  
6 sentence to be imposed, (2) the victim impact statement may include  
7 information presented in the form of a narrative, photographs or a  
8 video recording that describes the victim's general life history, family  
9 and social ties and accomplishments and the physical, emotional,  
10 psychological and economic impact on the surviving family members  
11 and the victim's community of the murder of the victim by the  
12 defendant, and (3) the trial judge shall review the victim impact  
13 statement prior to presentation and limit the content and manner of its  
14 presentation to ensure that it is in accordance with statutory and  
15 constitutional provisions.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide equal rights to victims in death penalty cases by clarifying the right of surviving family members or their legal representatives to present a victim impact statement during the sentencing phase of capital felony proceedings.