

By: Senator(s) Albritton

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2480

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN AUTOMATED VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM;  
2 TO SPECIFY THE PARAMETERS OF OPERATION; TO REQUIRE FREQUENT  
3 UPDATES; TO REQUIRE COOPERATION ON THE PART OF LAW ENFORCEMENT; TO  
4 PROVIDE FOR THE COSTS OF OPERATING THE SYSTEM; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Public Safety shall establish a  
8 statewide automated victim information and notification (SAVIN)  
9 system that will accomplish the following:

10 (a) Automatically notify a registered victim via the  
11 victim's choice of telephone, letter or E-mail, when any of the  
12 following events affect an offender housed in the Department of  
13 Corrections or any county jail in the state:

14 (i) The offender is transferred or assigned to  
15 another facility;

16 (ii) The offender is transferred to the custody of  
17 another agency outside the state;

18 (iii) The offender is given a different security  
19 classification;

20 (iv) The offender is released on temporary leave  
21 or otherwise;

22 (v) The offender is discharged;

23 (vi) The offender has escaped; or

24 (vii) The offender has been served with a  
25 protective order that was requested by the victim.

26 (b) Automatically notify a registered victim via the  
27 victim's choices of telephone, letter or E-mail, when an offender  
28 has:

29 (i) An upcoming court event where the victim is  
30 entitled to be present;

31 (ii) An upcoming parole or pardon hearing;

32 (iii) A change in status of the offender's parole  
33 or probation status including:

34 1. A change in supervision status;

35 2. A change in address.

36 (c) Automatically notify a registered victim via the  
37 victim's choice of telephone, letter or E-mail when a sex offender  
38 has:

39 (i) Updated the registrant's profile information  
40 with the offender registry;

41 (ii) Become noncompliant with the sex offender  
42 registration requirements.

43 (d) Permit a crime victim to receive the most recent  
44 status report for an offender in the Department of Corrections,  
45 county jail or sex offender registry by calling the SAVIN system  
46 on a toll free telephone number as well as by accessing the SAVIN  
47 system via a public Web site.

48 (e) All victims calling the SAVIN program will be given  
49 the option to have live operator assistance to use the program on  
50 a 24-hour, 365-day per year basis.

51 (f) Permit a crime victim to register or update the  
52 victim's registration information for the SAVIN system by calling  
53 a toll free telephone number or accessing a public Web site.

54 **SECTION 2.** Participation in the SAVIN program and making  
55 offender and case data available on a timely basis to the SAVIN  
56 program will satisfy the obligation of the Department of  
57 Corrections, sheriff and prosecuting attorney to notify the crime  
58 victim of an offender's custody status and the status of the  
59 offender's upcoming court events.

60 **SECTION 3.** The department must ensure that the offender  
61 information contained in the automated victim notification system

62 is updated frequently enough to timely notify a crime victim that  
63 an offender has been released, has been discharged, or has  
64 escaped. However, the failure of the automated victim  
65 notification system to provide notice to the victim does not  
66 establish a separate cause of action by the victim against the  
67 state, local officials or against the Department of Corrections.

68 **SECTION 4.** Law enforcement officers shall cooperate with the  
69 department in establishing and maintaining the automated victim  
70 notification system.

71 **SECTION 5.** The department shall administer the automated  
72 victim notification system. The costs of administering the system  
73 shall be paid with appropriations made to the department and from  
74 federal grants and contracts.

75 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
76 and after July 1, 2006.