May 25, 2000

H 1766. VICTIMS' RIGHTS/STUDY/FUNDS. *TO IMPROVE VICTIMS' RIGHTS IN NORTH CAROLINA AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A STUDY OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND HABITUAL FELON LAWS BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION.* Amends law to remove persons convicted of murder or manslaughter from those for whom work release may be recommended by judge as part of sentence and those for whom work release may be granted by Dep't of Correction. Requires (now, allows) prisoner granted work release to make restitution or reparation to aggrieved party; provides for judge to order (now recommend) restitution as part of active sentence. Amends GS 148-10.2 to provide that death row inmates are entitled to receive visits from family member, clergy and attorneys representing them and to require Dep't of Correction to develop a screening process for other visitors based on a policy of disallowing visits by persons seeking to use those inmates to further an agenda or to otherwise engage in any activity that risks further traumatizing the families of the inmate's victims. Adds GS 148-5.1 to require Sec'y of Correction to ensure that inmates convicted of violent crimes are not housed within 100-mile radius of victim or victim's immediate family. Adds GS 148-10.3 to provide that any electronic listing of information on death row inmates published by Dep't of Correction must include names of victim, description of nature of murder committed, and status of inmate's appeal unless victim or family requests that information not be included. Amends GS 15A-836 to require agency with custody of inmate to notify victim within 24 instead of 72 hours after escape of inmate if victim has notified agency that defendant issued a specific threat against the victim. Authorizes Legislative Research Commission to study methods for improving victim's
rights and enhancing habitual felon laws and appropriates $20,000 for 2000-2001 from General Fund to Legislative Research Commission for study. Effective July 1, 2000.

Intro. by Eddins.

| Ref. to Rules | GS 7A, 148, 15A, STUDIES, APPROP |