



2003
LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: Assembly Bill 1504

AUTHOR: Assembly Member Todd Spitzer

PRESENT LAW: Current law requires that the victim or next of kin be notified when a person found not guilty by reason of insanity is having a hearing which may result in that person being placed in the community on outpatient status.

PROPOSED LAW: This bill would specify that the community release program is responsible for notifying the victim or next of kin for a release hearing or of the actual release.

RECOMMENDATION: Support

BACKGROUND: According to Assembly Member Spitzer's office, there are several recent examples of victims or next of kin not being notified of release hearings. This is counter to current statute. Notifying victims of hearings and release dates of their assailants and providing them the opportunity to testify at a release hearing allows closure for the victim.

The Riverside County Mental Department recommends the Board of Supervisors support AB 1504 as a way to demonstrate community responsiveness to victims and their families and encourage their input and support for mental health treatment programs.

FISCAL EFFECT: No fiscal impact.

ORGANIZATION POSITIONS: There is no recorded support or opposition to this measure.