



Gerald T. Noel, Jr.

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

S.B. 175

123rd General Assembly
(As Reported by S. Judiciary)

Sen. Watts

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires a person upon whom the death sentence is imposed to be asked to write a last statement prior to execution if the person so chooses.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Death sentence execution procedure

Under existing law, a death sentence is to be executed within the walls of the state correctional institution designated by the Director of Rehabilitation and Correction as the location for executions (currently the Southern Ohio Correctional Institution in Lucasville), within an enclosure to be prepared for that purpose, under the direction of the warden of the institution or, in his absence, a deputy warden, and on the day designated by the judge passing sentence or otherwise designated by a court in the course of any appellate or postconviction proceedings. The execution chamber must exclude public view. (R.C. 2949.22(C).)

The bill would require, approximately six hours prior to the execution of a death sentence, that the person to be executed be asked to write a last statement if the person so chooses. The statement, if written, is to be given to one of the persons necessary to execute the death sentence. That person must forward it for transcribing and copying to the warden or, in the warden's absence, to a deputy warden of the correctional institution in which the death sentence is executed. After the execution is completed, the warden or deputy warden must furnish the statement to all persons present at the execution, including members of the news media, and to any other members of the news media who request the statement. (R.C. 2949.22(C)(2).)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	07-27-99	p. 920
Reported, S. Judiciary	01-13-00	pp. 1310

S0175-RS.123/bc