

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Code of Criminal Procedure of 1963 is  
5 amended by adding Section 115-10.6 as follows:

6 (725 ILCS 5/115-10.6 new)

7 Sec. 115-10.6. Admissibility of prior statements of an  
8 unavailable witness whose absence was wrongfully procured.

9 (a) Legislative intent. The Illinois General Assembly  
10 finds that no party to a criminal case who wrongfully procures  
11 the unavailability of a witness should be allowed to benefit  
12 from such wrongdoing by depriving the trier of fact of relevant  
13 testimony.

14 (b) A statement of a witness is not excluded at the trial  
15 or hearing of any defendant by the hearsay rule or as a  
16 violation of any right to confront witnesses if the witness was  
17 killed, bribed, kidnapped, secreted, intimidated, or otherwise  
18 induced by a party, or one for whose conduct such party is  
19 legally responsible, to prevent the witness from being  
20 available to testify at such trial or hearing.

21 (c) The party seeking to introduce the statement shall  
22 disclose the statement sufficiently in advance of trial or  
23 hearing to provide the opposing party with a fair opportunity  
24 to meet it. The disclosure shall include notice of an intent to  
25 offer the statement, including the identity of the declarant.

26 (d) Prior to ruling on the admissibility of a statement  
27 under this Section, the court shall conduct a hearing outside  
28 the presence of the jury. During the course of the hearing the  
29 court may allow the parties to proceed by way of proffer.  
30 Except in cases where a preponderance of the evidence  
31 establishes that the defendant killed the declarant, the party  
32 seeking to introduce the statement shall be required to show by

1 a preponderance of the evidence that the party who caused the  
2 unavailability of the witness did so with the intent or motive  
3 that the witness be unavailable for trial or hearing. The court  
4 is not required to find that the conduct or wrongdoing amounts  
5 to a criminal act.

6 (e) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prevent  
7 the admissibility of statements under existing hearsay  
8 exceptions.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
10 becoming law.