A proposal to revise

ARTICLE I, s. 16, Fla. Const.; requiring that
the state reimburse a person falsely charged
with a crime for the costs of a successful
defense whenever the charges are dismissed or
the person is acquitted.

It is proposed by the Florida Constitution Revision Commission
that:

Section 1. Section 16 of Article I of the Florida
Constitution is revised by amending that section to read:

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SECTION 16. Rights of accused and of victims.--

(a) In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall,
upon demand, be informed of the nature and cause of the
accusation against him, and shall be furnished a copy of the
charges, and shall have the right to have compulsory process
for witnesses, to confront at trial adverse witnesses, to be
heard in person, by counsel or both, and to have a speedy and
public trial by impartial jury in the county where the crime
was committed. If the county is not known, the indictment or
information may charge venue in two or more counties
conjunctively and proof that the crime was committed in that
area shall be sufficient; but before pleading the accused may
elect in which of those counties he will be tried. Venue for
prosecution of crimes committed beyond the boundaries of the
state shall be fixed by law.

(b)Victims of crime or their lawful representatives,
including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to

CODING: Words \texttt{stricken} are deletions; words \texttt{underlined} are additions.
the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused.

(c) A person falsely charged with a crime shall be reimbursed by the state for reasonable and necessary costs of a successful defense whenever the charges are dismissed or the person is acquitted.