OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 19-14—SB 1100 Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING "UPSKIRTING"

SUMMARY: Under existing law, the crime of voyeurism includes when someone, intending to arouse or satisfy his or her or someone else's sexual desire, knowingly photographs, films, videotapes, or otherwise records ("records") the victim's genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or undergarments or stockings used to clothe them, when they are not in plain view, and without the victim's knowledge and consent. (This conduct is sometimes referred to as "upskirting.")

This act specifies that this crime applies when the victim has a reasonable expectation of privacy, regardless of whether the victim is in a public place.

It also specifies that, for purposes of all conduct constituting voyeurism (see BACKGROUND), a person is not "in plain view" if the view is achieved by photographing or recording under or around a person's clothing.

By law, depending on the circumstances, voyeurism is either a class D or class C felony (see <u>Table on Penalties</u>).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Voyeurism

By law, in addition to the conduct described above, a person commits voyeurism if he or she, intending to arouse or satisfy his or her sexual desire:

- 1. commits simple trespass;
- 2. observes another person who is inside a dwelling and not in plain view under circumstances where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy; and
- 3. does not have the other person's knowledge or consent and the observation is not casual or cursory.

A person also commits voyeurism when, with malice or intending to satisfy his or her or another's sexual desire, the person:

- 1. knowingly photographs or records the victim's image, without the victim's knowledge and consent; and
- 2. does so when the victim is not in plain view and has a reasonable expectation of privacy under the circumstances (CGS § 53a-189a).