



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 454

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6852

House of Representatives, April 2, 2025

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK FEES FOR AN INDIGENT PERSON SEEKING A PARDON.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-11 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) The bureau in the Division of State Police within the Department
4 of Emergency Services and Public Protection known as the State Police
5 Bureau of Identification shall be maintained for the purposes of: (1)
6 Providing an authentic record of each person sixteen years of age or over
7 who is charged with the commission of any crime involving moral
8 turpitude, (2) providing definite information relative to the identity of
9 each person so arrested, (3) providing a record of the final judgment of
10 the court resulting from such arrest, unless such record has been erased
11 pursuant to section 54-142a, and (4) maintaining a central repository of
12 complete criminal history record disposition information. The
13 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection is directed

14 to maintain the State Police Bureau of Identification, which bureau shall
15 receive, classify and file in an orderly manner all fingerprints, pictures
16 and descriptions, including previous criminal records as far as known
17 of all persons so arrested, and shall classify and file in a like manner all
18 identification material and records received from the government of the
19 United States and from the various state governments and subdivisions
20 thereof, and shall cooperate with such governmental units in the
21 exchange of information relative to criminals. The State Police Bureau of
22 Identification shall accept fingerprints of applicants for admission to the
23 bar of the state and, to the extent permitted by federal law, shall
24 exchange state, multistate and federal criminal history records with the
25 State Bar Examining Committee for purposes of investigation of the
26 qualifications of any applicant for admission as an attorney under
27 section 51-80. The record of all arrests reported to the bureau after March
28 16, 1976, shall contain information of any disposition within ninety days
29 after the disposition has occurred.

30 (b) Any cost incurred by the State Police Bureau of Identification in
31 conducting any name search and fingerprinting of applicants for
32 admission to the bar of the state shall be paid from fees collected by the
33 State Bar Examining Committee.

34 (c) (1) (A) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
35 Protection shall charge the following fees for the service indicated: (i)
36 Name search, thirty-six dollars; (ii) fingerprint search, seventy-five
37 dollars; (iii) personal record search, seventy-five dollars; (iv) letters of
38 good conduct search, seventy-five dollars; (v) bar association search,
39 seventy-five dollars; (vi) fingerprinting, fifteen dollars; and (vii)
40 criminal history record information search, seventy-five dollars.

41 (B) The commissioner may waive fees imposed under subparagraph
42 (A)(vii) of this subdivision for any applicant requesting a criminal
43 history record information search for the purpose of applying for a
44 pardon authorized pursuant to section 54-124a, provided such applicant
45 completes a form prescribed by the Department of Emergency Services
46 and Public Protection representing such person's indigency.

47 (2) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the provisions
48 of this subsection shall not apply to any (A) federal, state or municipal
49 agency, (B) volunteer fire company or department, or (C) volunteer
50 ambulance service or company. The commissioner shall not require a
51 volunteer fire company or department or a volunteer ambulance service
52 or company to provide proof of insurance as a condition to receiving the
53 waiver of fees pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

54 (d) (1) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
55 Protection may enter into one or more agreements with independent
56 contractors requiring such contractors to receive and transmit by
57 electronic means fingerprints and demographic information to the State
58 Police Bureau of Identification for the processing of criminal history
59 records checks. The commissioner shall require such contractors to
60 comply with terms and conditions as the commissioner shall prescribe
61 to protect and ensure the security, privacy, confidentiality and value of
62 the fingerprints and demographic information received and transmitted
63 by such contractors. [The] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this
64 subsection, the commissioner may authorize such contractors to charge
65 a convenience fee, which shall not exceed thirty dollars, for
66 fingerprinting.

67 (2) An independent contractor shall not charge an individual the
68 convenience fee authorized under subdivision (1) of this subsection
69 when such individual (A) requests receipt and transmission of
70 fingerprints and demographic information for the processing of a
71 criminal history records check for the purpose of applying for a pardon
72 authorized pursuant to section 54-124a, and (B) applies for a waiver of
73 such fee due to indigency, on a form prescribed by the Department of
74 Emergency Services and Public Protection, and the commissioner
75 approves such waiver. When the commissioner approves such a waiver,
76 the commissioner shall pay such fee to such contractor.

77 (e) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
78 may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
79 necessary to implement the provisions of the National Child Protection

80 Act of 1993, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of
 81 1994, the Volunteers for Children Act of 1998, and the National Crime
 82 Prevention and Privacy Compact as provided in section 29-164f to
 83 provide for national criminal history records checks to determine an
 84 employee's or volunteer's suitability and fitness to care for the safety
 85 and well-being of children, the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

86 (f) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall
 87 not charge an individual any processing or distribution fee for
 88 providing a criminal history report or any fee associated with electronic
 89 preregistration with the Connecticut criminal history request system
 90 when such individual (1) is seeking such report or such preregistration
 91 for the purpose of applying for a pardon authorized pursuant to section
 92 54-124a, and (2) applies for a waiver of any such fee due to indigency,
 93 on a form prescribed by the department, and the commissioner
 94 approves such waiver.

95 (g) The commissioner shall make the forms described in
 96 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section,
 97 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section and
 98 subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of this section available on the Internet
 99 web site of the State Police Bureau of Identification and provide such
 100 forms to each location where a municipal police department provides
 101 fingerprinting services. Such forms shall be prominently displayed at
 102 such locations, along with other materials and documents necessary to
 103 complete an application for a pardon pursuant to section 54-124a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| | | |
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| Section 1 | July 1, 2025 | 29-11 |
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PS Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 26 \$ | FY 27 \$ |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection | GF - Cost | See Below | See Below |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to waive and cover the cost of fees associated with background checks for indigent persons seeking a pardon, results in a cost to the state beginning in FY 26.

The waiver applies to the following fees:

1. the convenience fee for fingerprinting of up to \$30 charged by independent contractors,
2. any processing or distribution fees charged for a criminal history report, and
3. any fee for electronically preregistering with the Connecticut criminal history request system.¹

¹ Ordinarily, this fee totals \$88.25 (or \$90.90 with a credit card). Existing law already allows DESPP to waive a \$75 portion of this fee for a state criminal history report, leaving a remainder of \$13.25 to be waived (and presumably covered by DESPP) for the federal report.

It is unknown how many individuals will apply for this waiver.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of fees waived.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6852*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK FEES FOR AN INDIGENT PERSON SEEKING A PARDON.*****SUMMARY**

This bill waives certain fingerprinting and criminal history record search and preregistration fees for indigent individuals requesting them for their pardon applications. It applies to the following fees:

1. the convenience fee for fingerprinting of up to \$30 charged by independent contractors operating under an agreement with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP),
2. any processing or distribution fees charged for a criminal history report, and
3. any fee for electronically preregistering with the Connecticut criminal history request system.

Existing law already allows DESPP to waive the \$75 fee for a criminal history report for indigent individuals requesting it for their pardon application.

Under the bill, an individual seeking these fingerprinting or background check services for their pardon application may apply for a fee waiver due to indigency on a DESPP-prescribed form. If the commissioner approves the waiver, DESPP must waive the fee. The bill requires the DESPP commissioner to reimburse independent contractors for any waivers he approves for their convenience fees.

The bill requires the DESPP commissioner to post the fee waiver

forms described above on the State Police Bureau of Identification's website and give them to each location where a municipal police department provides fingerprinting services. These locations must prominently display the forms, together with other materials and documents needed for pardon applications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/18/2025)