



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 773

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7255

House of Representatives, April 24, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES AND THE DUTIES OF JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Public agency" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-
3 200 of the general statutes.

4 (2) "Personal information" means a: (A) Home address of a primary
5 residence; (B) home telephone number; (C) mobile telephone number;
6 (D) personal electronic mail address; (E) Social Security number; (F)
7 driver's license number; (G) federal tax identification number; (H)
8 license plate number or unique identifier of a vehicle; (I) birth or marital
9 record; or (J) child's name. "Personal information" does not include
10 information that has been publicly displayed that the protected
11 individual has not requested to be removed, or information that is
12 relevant to and displayed as part of a news story, commentary, an

13 editorial or any other speech on a matter of public concern.

14 (3) "Protected individual" means: (A) A justice or judge of a court
15 established under article XX of the State Constitution; (B) a senior judge
16 appointed pursuant to section 51-50i of the general statutes; (C) a state
17 referee appointed pursuant to section 52-434 of the general statutes, as
18 amended by this act; (D) a family support magistrate appointed
19 pursuant to section 46b-231 of the general statutes; (E) a family support
20 referee appointed pursuant to section 46b-236 of the general statutes;
21 and (F) a spouse, a child or a dependent who resides in the same
22 household as an individual described in subparagraphs (A) to (E),
23 inclusive, of this subdivision.

24 (4) "Publish" means to post or otherwise make available to the public
25 on the Internet, social media or social networks.

26 (b) There is established an Office of Information Privacy within the
27 Judicial Branch.

28 (c) A protected individual may request that the Office of Information
29 Privacy direct a public agency to: (1) Not publish any specific personal
30 information identified by the protected individual; or (2) remove such
31 specific personal information that has already been published.

32 (d) The Office of Information Privacy shall have the following powers
33 and duties:

34 (1) Certify that an individual requesting to have personal information
35 removed from the Internet, social media or social network or to not
36 publish personal information on the Internet, social media or social
37 network is a protected individual.

38 (2) Work with the protected individual to identify the specific
39 personal information that the protected individual is seeking to have
40 removed if it has already been published including the exact Internet
41 web site address where the content appears, if available, and, if the
42 personal information is a land record, the exact Internet web site address
43 of the record as it appears on such web site, if available, and the volume

44 and page number that indicates where the published land record is
45 recorded.

46 (3) After certifying that a requestor is a protected individual, provide
47 the public agency with the specific personal information that the
48 individual is seeking to have removed if it has already been published
49 including the exact Internet web site address where the content appears,
50 if available, and, if it is a land record, the exact Internet web site address
51 of the record as it appears on such web site, if available, and the volume
52 and page number that indicates where the published land record is
53 recorded, and direct that the personal information be removed as soon
54 as practicable.

55 (4) Work with a protected individual to identify the specific personal
56 information that the individual does not want to be published including
57 the volume and page number, if the personal information is recorded in
58 a land record.

59 (5) After certifying that a requestor is a protected individual, provide
60 the public agency with the specific personal information that the
61 individual does not want to be published including the volume and
62 page number, if the personal information is recorded in a land record.

63 (6) Inform the public agency whenever a previously certified
64 protected individual no longer meets the definition of a protected
65 individual and is no longer eligible to (A) have personal information
66 removed from the Internet, social media or social network, or (B) request
67 that a public agency not publish personal information on the Internet,
68 social media or social network.

69 (7) Take any other actions necessary to fulfill the purposes of this
70 section.

71 (e) Upon receipt of a request pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
72 a public agency shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the request by
73 electronic mail and: (1) Take steps reasonably necessary to ensure that
74 any specific personal information identified by the protected individual

75 is not published; or (2) if such specific personal information is already
76 published, remove the personal information identified as quickly as
77 practicable after receipt of the request.

78 (f) No employee of a public agency shall be held civilly liable for any
79 damages or injuries that occur as a result of the failure to remove
80 requested personal information of a protected individual from the
81 Internet, social media or social networks, provided the employee acted
82 in good faith and in accordance with the laws governing the handling
83 of such information.

84 (g) For purposes of this section, an employee shall be deemed to have
85 acted in good faith if the employee (1) reasonably believed that such
86 employee's actions were in compliance with applicable laws concerning
87 the protection of personal information, and (2) did not engage in gross
88 negligence, wilful misconduct or intentional wrongdoing.

89 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 17a-28 of the general statutes is
90 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
91 *passage*):

92 (g) The department shall disclose records, subject to subsections (b)
93 and (c) of this section, without the consent of the person who is the
94 subject of the record, to:

95 (1) The person named in the record or such person's authorized
96 representative, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information
97 (A) contained in the record about such person or about such person's
98 biological or adoptive minor child, if such person's parental rights to
99 such child have not been terminated; and (B) identifying an individual
100 who reported abuse or neglect of the person, including any tape
101 recording of an oral report pursuant to section 17a-103, if a court
102 determines that there is reasonable cause to believe the reporter
103 knowingly made a false report or that the interests of justice require
104 disclosure;

105 (2) An employee of the department for any purpose reasonably

106 related to the performance of such employee's duties;

107 (3) A guardian ad litem or attorney appointed to represent a child or
108 youth in litigation affecting the best interests of the child or youth;

109 (4) An attorney representing a parent, guardian or child in a petition
110 filed in the Superior Court pursuant to section 17a-112 or 46b-129,
111 provided (A) if such records do not pertain to such attorney's client or
112 such client's child, such records shall not be further disclosed to another
113 individual or entity by such attorney except pursuant to the order of a
114 court of competent jurisdiction, (B) if such records are confidential
115 pursuant to federal law, such records shall not be disclosed to such
116 attorney or such attorney's client unless such attorney or such attorney's
117 client is otherwise entitled to such records, and (C) nothing in this
118 subdivision shall limit the disclosure of records under subdivision (3) of
119 this subsection;

120 (5) The Attorney General, any assistant attorney general or any other
121 legal counsel retained to represent the department during the course of
122 a legal proceeding involving the department or an employee of the
123 department;

124 (6) The Child Advocate or the Child Advocate's designee;

125 (7) The Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's designee
126 for purposes of ensuring competent representation by the attorneys
127 with whom the Chief Public Defender contracts to provide legal and
128 guardian ad litem services to the subjects of such records and for
129 ensuring accurate payments for services rendered by such attorneys;

130 (8) The Chief State's Attorney or the Chief State's Attorney's designee
131 for purposes of investigating or prosecuting (A) an allegation related to
132 child abuse or neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false
133 report of suspected child abuse or neglect, (C) an allegation that a
134 mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in
135 accordance with section 17a-101a, provided such prosecuting authority
136 shall have access to records of a child charged with the commission of a

137 delinquent act, who is not being charged with an offense related to child
138 abuse, only while the case is being prosecuted and after obtaining a
139 release, or (D) an allegation of fraud in the receipt of public or private
140 benefits, provided no information identifying the subject of the record
141 is disclosed unless such information is essential to such investigation or
142 prosecution;

143 (9) A state or federal law enforcement officer, including a military law
144 enforcement authority under the United States Department of Defense,
145 for purposes of investigating (A) an allegation related to child abuse or
146 neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false report of
147 suspected child abuse or neglect, or (C) an allegation that a mandated
148 reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance
149 with section 17a-101a;

150 (10) A foster or prospective adoptive parent, if the records pertain to
151 a child or youth currently placed with the foster or prospective adoptive
152 parent, or a child or youth being considered for placement with the
153 foster or prospective adoptive parent, and the records are necessary to
154 address the social, medical, psychological or educational needs of the
155 child or youth, provided no information identifying a biological parent
156 is disclosed without the permission of such biological parent;

157 (11) The Governor, when requested in writing in the course of the
158 Governor's official functions, the joint standing committee of the
159 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
160 services, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
161 cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary or the joint standing
162 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
163 relating to children, when requested in writing by any of such
164 committees in the course of such committee's official functions, and
165 upon a majority vote of such committee, provided no name or other
166 identifying information is disclosed unless such information is essential
167 to the gubernatorial or legislative purpose;

168 (12) The Office of Early Childhood for the purpose of (A) determining
169 the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility licensed

170 pursuant to section 19a-77, 19a-80, 19a-87b or 19a-421; (B) determining
171 the suitability of such person for licensure; (C) determining the
172 suitability of a person to provide child care services to a child and
173 receive a child care subsidy pursuant to section 17b-749k; (D) an
174 investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f; (E) notifying the
175 office when the Department of Children and Families places an
176 individual licensed or certified by the office on the child abuse and
177 neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (F) notifying the office
178 when the Department of Children and Families possesses information
179 regarding an office regulatory violation committed by an individual
180 licensed or certified by the office;

181 (13) The Department of Developmental Services, to allow said
182 department to determine eligibility, facilitate enrollment and plan for
183 the provision of services to a child who is a client of said department
184 and who is applying to enroll in or is enrolled in said department's
185 behavioral services program. At the time that a parent or guardian
186 completes an application for enrollment of a child in the Department of
187 Developmental Services' behavioral services program, or at the time that
188 said department updates a child's annual individualized plan of care,
189 said department shall notify such parent or guardian that the
190 Department of Children and Families may provide records to the
191 Department of Developmental Services for the purposes specified in this
192 subdivision without the consent of such parent or guardian;

193 (14) Any individual or entity for the purposes of identifying resources
194 that will promote the permanency plan of a child or youth approved by
195 the court pursuant to sections 17a-11, 17a-111b and 46b-129;

196 (15) A state agency that licenses or certifies a person to educate, care
197 for or provide services to children or youths;

198 (16) A judge or employee of a Probate Court who requires access to
199 such records in order to perform such judge's or employee's official
200 duties;

201 (17) A judge of the Superior Court for purposes of determining the

202 appropriate disposition of a child adjudicated as delinquent;

203 (18) A judge of the Superior Court in a criminal prosecution for
204 purposes of in camera inspection whenever (A) the court has ordered
205 that the record be provided to the court; or (B) a party to the proceeding
206 has issued a subpoena for the record;

207 (19) A judge of the Superior Court and all necessary parties in a
208 family violence proceeding when such records concern family violence
209 with respect to the child who is the subject of the proceeding or the
210 parent of such child who is the subject of the proceeding;

211 (20) The Auditors of Public Accounts, or their representative,
212 provided no information identifying the subject of the record is
213 disclosed unless such information is essential to an audit conducted
214 pursuant to section 2-90;

215 (21) A local or regional board of education, provided the records are
216 limited to educational records created or obtained by the state or
217 Connecticut Unified School District #2, established pursuant to section
218 17a-37;

219 (22) The superintendent of schools for any school district for the
220 purpose of determining the suitability of a person to be employed by
221 the local or regional board of education for such school district pursuant
222 to subsection (a) of section 10-221d;

223 (23) The Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of criminal
224 history records checks pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-44,
225 provided information disclosed pursuant to this subdivision shall be
226 limited to information included on the Department of Children and
227 Families child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section
228 17a-101k, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k
229 concerning the nondisclosure of findings of responsibility for abuse and
230 neglect;

231 (24) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the
232 purpose of treatment planning for young adults who have transitioned

233 from the care of the Department of Children and Families;

234 (25) The superintendent of a public school district or the executive
235 director or other head of a public or private institution for children
236 providing care for children or a private school (A) pursuant to sections
237 17a-11, 17a-101b, 17a-101c, 17a-101i, 17a-111b and 46b-129, or (B) when
238 the Department of Children and Families places an individual
239 employed by such institution or school on the child abuse and neglect
240 registry pursuant to section 17a-101k;

241 (26) The Department of Social Services for the purpose of (A)
242 determining the suitability of a person for payment from the
243 Department of Social Services for providing child care; (B) promoting
244 the health, safety and welfare of a child or youth receiving services from
245 either department; or (C) investigating allegations of fraud provided no
246 information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless such
247 information is essential to any such investigation;

248 (27) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, [to
249 allow the division to determine] for the purpose of (A) determining the
250 supervision and treatment needs of a child or youth or any other person,
251 and provide appropriate supervision and treatment services to such
252 child or youth [, provided such disclosure shall be limited to
253 information that identifies the child or youth, or a member of such
254 child's or youth's immediate family, as being or having been (A)
255 committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families
256 as delinquent, (B) under the supervision of the Commissioner of
257 Children and Families, or (C) enrolled in the voluntary services program
258 operated by the Department of Children and Families;

259 (28) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch for
260 the purpose of] or any other person, or (B) sharing common case records
261 to track recidivism of juvenile offenders;

262 [(29)] (28) The birth-to-three program's referral intake office for the
263 purpose of (A) determining eligibility of, (B) facilitating enrollment for,
264 and (C) providing services to (i) substantiated victims of child abuse and

265 neglect with suspected developmental delays, and (ii) newborns
266 impacted by withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug
267 exposure;

268 [(30)] (29) The Department of Public Health for (A) the purpose of
269 notification when the Commissioner of Children and Families places an
270 individual licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health on
271 the child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-
272 101k, and (B) purposes relating to the licensure of the Albert J. Solnit
273 Children's Center and the administration of licensing requirements
274 established pursuant to or set forth in sections 19a-134 and 19a-498;

275 [(31)] (30) The Department of Correction, for the purpose of
276 determining the supervision and treatment needs of a child or youth,
277 and providing appropriate supervision and treatment services to such
278 child or youth;

279 [(32)] (31) Any child placing agency subject to licensure by the
280 Department of Children and Families, for the purpose of determining
281 the suitability of a person (A) for employment by such agency, or (B) to
282 adopt or provide foster care pursuant to sections 17a-114 and 17a-151;

283 [(33)] (32) The Department of Administrative Services, for the
284 purpose of determining whether an applicant for employment with the
285 state, who would have contact with children in the course of such
286 employment, appears on the child abuse or neglect registry maintained
287 pursuant to section 17a-101k; and

288 [(34)] (33) Any individual, upon the request of such individual, when
289 the information concerns an incident of abuse or neglect that resulted in
290 the fatality or near fatality of a child or youth, provided (A) such
291 disclosure shall be limited to (i) the cause and circumstances of such
292 fatality or near fatality, (ii) the age and gender of such child or youth,
293 (iii) a description of any previous reports of or investigations into child
294 abuse or neglect that are relevant to the child abuse or neglect that led
295 to such fatality or near fatality, (iv) the findings of any such
296 investigations, and (v) a description of any services provided and

297 actions taken by the state on behalf of such child or youth that are
298 relevant to the child abuse or neglect that led to such fatality or near
299 fatality, and (B) the department shall not make any disclosure that is
300 prohibited by the provisions of any relevant federal law, including, but
301 not limited to, Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, as
302 amended from time to time. The department may withhold the
303 disclosure of any records described in this subdivision if the
304 commissioner determines that such disclosure may (i) result in harm to
305 the safety or well-being of the child or youth who is the subject of such
306 records, the family of such child or youth, or any individual who made
307 a report of abuse or neglect pertaining to such child or youth, or (ii)
308 interfere with a pending criminal investigation.

309 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 29-32b of the general statutes is
310 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
311 *2025*):

312 (a) There is established a Board of Firearms Permit Examiners, within
313 the Office of Governmental Accountability established under section 1-
314 300, to be comprised of ~~[nine]~~ eight members [, eight of whom] who shall
315 be appointed by the Governor to serve during the Governor's term and
316 until such members' successors are appointed and qualify. [, and one of
317 whom shall be a retired judge of the Superior Court appointed by the
318 Chief Court Administrator.] With the exception of two public members,
319 the members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed from
320 nominees of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
321 Protection, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
322 the Connecticut State Association of Chiefs of Police, the Commissioner
323 of Energy and Environmental Protection, The Connecticut State Rifle
324 and Revolver Association, Inc., and Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc., and
325 each of said organizations shall be entitled to representation on the
326 board. At least one member of the board appointed by the Governor
327 shall be a lawyer licensed to practice in this state who shall act as
328 chairman of the board during the hearing of appeals brought under this
329 section.

330 Sec. 4. Subsection (f) of section 42a-9-518 of the general statutes is
331 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
332 *2025*):

333 (f) (1) A person identified in any record filed pursuant to sections 42a-
334 9-501 to 42a-9-526, inclusive, may petition the Tax and Administrative
335 Appeals Session of the Superior Court to invalidate a record, when such
336 record was falsely filed or amended. The court shall review such
337 petition and determine whether cause exists to doubt the validity of
338 such record. Upon a determination that such cause exists, the court
339 [shall] may, not later than sixty days after the date of such
340 determination, hold a hearing to determine whether to invalidate such
341 record or grant any other relief deemed appropriate by the court. The
342 court's finding may be made solely on a review of the documentation
343 attached to the petition and the responses, if any, of the person named
344 as a secured party in the financing statement record and without
345 hearing any oral testimony if none is offered by the secured party. There
346 shall be no fee to petition for a hearing under this section. The person
347 petitioning the court to invalidate a record shall send a copy of the
348 petition to all parties named in such record.

349 (2) A person who files a petition under subdivision (1) of this
350 subsection shall include, as part of such petition, a certified copy of the
351 record that such person seeks to invalidate.

352 (3) In determining whether cause exists to doubt the validity of a
353 record under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the court may consider
354 factors that include, but are not limited to, whether (A) the record is
355 related to a valid existing commercial or financial transaction, or a
356 potential commercial or financial transaction, or a judgment of a court
357 of competent jurisdiction; (B) the same individual is named as both
358 debtor and creditor; (C) an individual is named as a transmitting utility;
359 and (D) the record has been filed with the intent to defraud, deceive,
360 injure or harass a person, business or governmental entity.

361 (4) If the court determines [after a hearing] that a record identified in
362 a petition filed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection is not valid,

363 the court shall render a judgment that such record is void in its entirety
364 and shall direct the custodian of such record, when feasible, to note that
365 such record is not valid. The court may grant such other relief as it
366 deems appropriate. The petitioner under subdivision (1) of this
367 subsection shall provide a copy of the petition and the judgment of the
368 court granting such petition to the custodian of the record adjudged
369 invalid by the court.

370 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 46b-3 of the general statutes is
371 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
372 *passage*):

373 (a) The Chief Court Administrator shall appoint such family relations
374 personnel as the Chief Court Administrator deems necessary for the
375 proper operation of the family relations sessions. The salaries and duties
376 of such [officers] personnel shall be determined by the judges of the
377 Supreme Court in accordance with the compensation plan established
378 under section 51-12. For the purposes of any investigation or pretrial
379 conference the judge presiding at any family relations session may
380 employ the services of any probation officer, including those under the
381 direction of Adult Probation Services, physician, psychologist,
382 psychiatrist or family counselor. The Chief Court Administrator may
383 assign, reassign and modify the assignments of such family relations
384 personnel as such administrator deems necessary to be in the best
385 interest of the disposition of family relations matters.

386 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 46b-124 of the general statutes is
387 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
388 *2025*):

389 (d) Records of cases of juvenile matters involving delinquency
390 proceedings shall be available to (1) Judicial Branch employees who, in
391 the performance of their duties, require access to such records, (2) judges
392 and employees of the Probate Court who, in the performance of their
393 duties, require access to such records, and (3) employees and authorized
394 agents of municipal, state or federal agencies involved in (A) the
395 delinquency proceedings, (B) the provision of services directly to the

396 child, (C) the delivery of court diversionary programs, or (D) the
397 evaluation of a proposed transfer of a firearm to a person under the age
398 of twenty-one in this state or any other state, as required by Title II,
399 Section 12001 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, Public Law 117-
400 159, as amended from time to time. Such employees and authorized
401 agents include, but are not limited to, law enforcement officials,
402 community-based youth service bureau officials, state and federal
403 prosecutorial officials, school officials in accordance with section 10-
404 233h, court officials including officials of both the regular criminal
405 docket and the docket for juvenile matters and officials of the Division
406 of Criminal Justice, the Division of Public Defender Services, the
407 Department of Children and Families, if the child is under the oversight
408 of the department's administrative unit pursuant to section 17a-3b,
409 provided such disclosure shall be limited to information that identifies
410 the child as residing in a justice facility or incarcerated, or, if the child is
411 [committed pursuant to section 46b-129] receiving services from the
412 department, provided such disclosure shall be limited to (i) information
413 that identifies the child as the subject of the delinquency petition, or (ii)
414 the records of the delinquency proceedings, when the [juvenile court
415 orders the department to provide] department is providing services to
416 said child, the Court Support Services Division and agencies under
417 contract with the Judicial Branch. Such records shall also be available to
418 (I) the attorney representing the child, including the Division of Public
419 Defender Services, in any proceeding in which such records are
420 relevant, (II) the parents or guardian of the child, until such time as the
421 subject of the record reaches the age of majority, (III) the subject of the
422 record, upon submission of satisfactory proof of the subject's identity,
423 pursuant to guidelines prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court
424 Administrator, provided the subject has reached the age of majority,
425 (IV) law enforcement officials and prosecutorial officials conducting
426 legitimate criminal investigations, as provided in subsection (o) of this
427 section or orders to detain pursuant to section 46b-133, (V) a state or
428 federal agency providing services related to the collection of moneys
429 due or funding to support the service needs of eligible juveniles,
430 provided such disclosure shall be limited to that information necessary

431 for the collection of and application for such moneys, (VI) members and
432 employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and employees of the
433 Department of Correction who, in the performance of their duties,
434 require access to such records, provided the subject of the record has
435 been charged with or has been convicted of a crime in the regular
436 criminal docket of the Superior Court and such records are relevant to
437 the performance of a risk and needs assessment of such person while
438 such person is incarcerated, the determination of such person's
439 suitability for release from [incarceration] the custody of the
440 Department of Correction or for a pardon, or the determination of the
441 supervision and treatment needs of such person while on parole or other
442 supervised release, and (VII) members and employees of the Judicial
443 Review Council who, in the performance of their duties related to said
444 council, require access to such records. Records disclosed pursuant to
445 this subsection shall not be further disclosed, except that information
446 contained in such records may be disclosed in connection with bail or
447 sentencing reports in open court during criminal proceedings involving
448 the subject of such information, or as otherwise provided by law.

449 Sec. 7. Subsection (f) of section 46b-124 of the general statutes is
450 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
451 *2025*):

452 (f) Information concerning a child who is the subject of an order to
453 take such child into custody or other process that has been entered into
454 a central computer system pursuant to subsection (i) of section 46b-133
455 may be disclosed to employees and authorized agents of the Judicial
456 Branch, law enforcement agencies and the Department of Children and
457 Families, provided the information is limited to a child who [has been
458 committed pursuant to section 46b-129] is receiving services from the
459 department, in accordance with policies and procedures established by
460 the Chief Court Administrator.

461 Sec. 8. Section 47a-26e of the general statutes is repealed and the
462 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

463 If an order of payments is in effect on the date of judgment in the trial

464 court and an appeal is taken by any party, the order shall remain in
465 effect and compliance with the order shall constitute satisfactory
466 compliance with [the bond requirement] subsection (a) of section 47a-
467 35a, as amended by this act.

468 Sec. 9. Section 47a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the
469 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

470 (a) When any appeal is taken by the defendant occupying a dwelling
471 unit in an action of summary process, the chief clerk of the Appellate
472 Court, or the chief clerk's designee, shall transmit notice of the pendency
473 of the appeal to the Superior Court that rendered the judgment that is
474 the subject of the appeal. Upon receipt of the notice of the pendency of
475 such appeal, the Superior Court shall schedule and conduct a hearing to
476 guarantee payment for all rents that may accrue during the pendency of
477 such appeal. The Superior Court shall schedule and conduct such
478 hearing not later than fourteen days after the date of receiving notice of
479 the pendency of such appeal. After conducting such hearing the
480 Superior Court may order the defendant to deposit with the court (1) an
481 amount equal to the defendant's portion of the last-agreed upon rent, or
482 (2) where no lease had existed, an amount equal to the reasonable value
483 for such use and occupancy that may so accrue. After hearing thereon,
484 the court shall order the defendant to deposit with the court payments
485 for the reasonable fair rental value of the use and occupancy of the
486 premises during the pendency of such appeal accruing from the date of
487 such order. Such order shall permit the payment of such amount in
488 monthly installments, as it becomes due. If all or a portion of the
489 defendant's rent is being paid to the plaintiff by a housing authority,
490 municipality, state agency or similar entity, this requirement shall be
491 satisfied if the defendant deposits with the court an amount equal to the
492 defendant's portion of the rent.

493 (b) In any other appeal the [court] Superior Court on its own motion
494 or on motion of the parties, may fix a sufficient bond with surety to the
495 adverse party in such amount as it may determine.

496 (c) When any appeal is taken by a plaintiff in an action of summary

497 process, the [court] Superior Court, upon motion of the plaintiff and
498 after a hearing thereon, shall order the defendant to deposit with the
499 court payments in monthly installments, as each payment becomes due,
500 for the reasonable fair rental value of the use and occupancy of the
501 premises during the pendency of the appeal accruing from the date of
502 such order.

503 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 51-5c of the general statutes is
504 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
505 *passage*):

506 (b) (1) The following information contained in the registry of
507 protective orders shall not be subject to disclosure and may be accessed
508 only in accordance with this section, unless otherwise ordered by the
509 court: (A) Any information that would identify a person protected by an
510 order contained in the registry; (B) any information that is confidential
511 pursuant to state or federal law, including, but not limited to, any
512 information that is confidential pursuant to a court order; and (C) any
513 information entered in the registry pursuant to an ex parte order prior
514 to a hearing by a court having jurisdiction over the parties and the
515 subject matter.

516 (2) Any judge of the Superior Court or any employee of the Judicial
517 [Department] Branch who is authorized by policies and procedures
518 adopted by the Chief Court Administrator pursuant to subsection (a) of
519 this section shall have access to such information. The Chief Court
520 Administrator may grant access to such information to personnel of the
521 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the
522 Department of Correction, the Department of Children and Families, the
523 Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Psychiatric Security Review Board,
524 the Division of Criminal Justice, any municipal or tribal police
525 department within this state or any other agency, organization or person
526 determined by the Chief Court Administrator, pursuant to policies and
527 procedures adopted by the Chief Court Administrator, to have a
528 legitimate interest in the information contained in the registry. Any
529 person who obtains such information pursuant to this subdivision may

530 use and disclose the information only in the performance of such
531 person's duties.

532 (3) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the
533 information contained in the registry shall be provided to and may be
534 accessed through the Connecticut on-line law enforcement
535 communications teleprocessing system maintained by the Department
536 of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Nothing in this section
537 shall be construed to permit public access to the Connecticut on-line law
538 enforcement communications teleprocessing system.

539 Sec. 11. Subsection (c) of section 51-47 of the general statutes is
540 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
541 *passage*):

542 (c) Each such judge shall be an elector and a resident of this state,
543 shall be a member of the bar of the state of Connecticut and shall not
544 engage in private practice, nor on or after July 1, 1985, be a member of
545 any board of directors or of any advisory board of any state bank and
546 trust company, state bank or savings and loan association, national
547 banking association or federal savings bank or savings and loan
548 association. [Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a senior judge
549 from participating in any alternative dispute resolution program
550 approved by STA-FED ADR, Inc.]

551 Sec. 12. Section 51-50c of the general statutes is repealed and the
552 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

553 (a) (1) Any senior judge of the Supreme Court may be designated and
554 assigned by the Chief Justice or the Chief Court Administrator to
555 perform such judicial duties in the Supreme Court or by the Chief Court
556 Administrator to perform such judicial duties in the Superior Court, as
557 such senior judge is willing to undertake; (2) any senior judge of the
558 Appellate Court may be designated by the Chief Judge of the Appellate
559 Court or the Chief Court Administrator to perform such judicial duties
560 in the Appellate Court or by the Chief Court Administrator to perform
561 such judicial duties in the Superior Court, as such senior judge is willing

562 to undertake.

563 (b) Any senior judge of the Superior Court may be designated and
564 assigned by the Chief Court Administrator to perform such judicial
565 duties in the Superior Court as such senior judge is willing to undertake.

566 (c) A senior judge shall not perform judicial duties unless such senior
567 judge is so designated and assigned except as a state referee in the
568 manner prescribed by law.

569 (d) The Chief Court Administrator may designate, assign or summon
570 any senior judge, in any matter in which the Chief Court Administrator
571 may designate, assign or summon a judge or judges, to sit or act in any
572 judicial capacity.

573 (e) The Chief Court Administrator may make new designations and
574 assignments in accordance with the provisions of this section and may
575 revoke designations and assignments previously made by the Chief
576 Court Administrator.

577 [(f) A senior judge may participate in an alternative dispute
578 resolution program approved by STA-FED ADR, Inc. in any year
579 commencing July first provided such judge performed the duties of a
580 senior judge for at least seventy-five days during the preceding year,
581 except that (1) for the year commencing July 1, 1993, a senior judge may
582 participate in said alternative dispute resolution program without
583 having performed the duties of a senior judge for seventy-five days
584 during the preceding year and (2) a senior judge may participate in said
585 alternative dispute resolution program from the date such judge
586 assumes the status of a senior judge, through the completion of the year
587 commencing July first following such date, without having satisfied the
588 seventy-five-day requirement.]

589 Sec. 13. Section 51-50k of the general statutes is repealed and the
590 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

591 Each retired justice or judge who is designated and assigned by the
592 Chief Justice or the Chief Court Administrator to perform judicial duties

593 shall be an elector and a resident of this state, shall be a member of the
594 bar of the state of Connecticut and shall not engage in private practice.
595 [Participation in an alternative dispute resolution program approved by
596 STA-FED ADR, Inc. shall not be considered the private practice of law.]

597 Sec. 14. Section 51-197f of the general statutes is repealed and the
598 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

599 Upon final determination of any appeal by the Appellate Court or
600 upon the Appellate Court's denial of a motion to file a late appeal, there
601 shall be no right to further review except the Supreme Court shall have
602 the power to certify cases for its review upon petition by an aggrieved
603 party or by the appellate panel which heard the matter. A vote of three
604 judges of the Supreme Court shall be required to certify a case for review
605 by the Supreme Court, except that if fewer than six judges of said court
606 are available to consider a petition, a vote of two judges of said court
607 shall be required to certify a case, under such other rules as the justices
608 of said court shall establish. The procedure on appeal from the
609 Appellate Court to the Supreme Court shall, except as otherwise
610 provided, be in accordance with the procedure provided by rule or law
611 for the appeal of judgments rendered by the Superior Court, unless
612 modified by rule of the justices of the Supreme Court.

613 Sec. 15. Section 51-344 of the general statutes is repealed and the
614 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

615 For purposes of establishing venue, the Superior Court shall consist
616 of the following judicial districts:

617 (1) The judicial district of Ansonia-Milford, consisting of the towns of
618 Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Seymour,
619 Shelton and West Haven;

620 (2) The judicial district of Danbury, consisting of the towns of Bethel,
621 Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield
622 and Sherman;

623 (3) The judicial district of Bridgeport, consisting of the towns of

624 Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull;

625 (4) The judicial district of Hartford, consisting of the towns of [Avon,]
626 Bloomfield, [Canton,] East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor,
627 Enfield, [Farmington,] Glastonbury, [Granby,] Hartford, Manchester,
628 Marlborough, [Simsbury,] South Windsor, Suffield, West Hartford,
629 Windsor and Windsor Locks;

630 (5) The judicial district of Litchfield, consisting of the towns of Avon,
631 Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Burlington, Canaan, Canton,
632 Colebrook, Cornwall, Farmington, Goshen, Granby, Hartland,
633 Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, New Milford,
634 Norfolk, North Canaan, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Simsbury,
635 Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington and Winchester;

636 (6) The judicial district of Middlesex, consisting of the towns of
637 Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East
638 Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old
639 Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook;

640 (7) The judicial district of New Britain, consisting of the towns of
641 Berlin, Bristol, [Burlington,] New Britain, Newington, Plainville,
642 Plymouth, Rocky Hill, Southington and Wethersfield;

643 (8) The judicial district of New Haven, consisting of the towns of
644 Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison,
645 Meriden, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Wallingford and
646 Woodbridge;

647 (9) The judicial district of New London, consisting of the towns of
648 Bozrah, Colchester, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Lebanon,
649 Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Montville, New London, North Stonington,
650 Norwich, Old Lyme, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, Voluntown
651 and Waterford;

652 (10) The judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk, consisting of the
653 towns of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston,
654 Westport and Wilton;

655 (11) The judicial district of Tolland, consisting of the towns of
656 Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Ellington, Hebron, Mansfield,
657 Somers, Stafford, Tolland, Union, Vernon and Willington;

658 (12) The judicial district of Waterbury, consisting of the towns of
659 Middlebury, Naugatuck, Prospect, Southbury, Waterbury, Watertown,
660 Wolcott and Woodbury; and

661 (13) The judicial district of Windham, consisting of the towns of
662 Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly,
663 Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham
664 and Woodstock.

665 Sec. 16. Section 51-345 of the general statutes is repealed and the
666 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

667 (a) Except as provided in section 51-348 and subsections (b) to (h),
668 inclusive, of this section, all civil process shall be made returnable to a
669 judicial district, as follows:

670 (1) If all of the parties reside outside this state, to the judicial district
671 where (A) the injury occurred, (B) the transaction occurred, or (C) the
672 property is located or lawfully attached.

673 (2) If the defendant is not a resident, to the judicial district where the
674 attached property is located.

675 (3) If either or both the plaintiff or the defendant are residents of this
676 state, to the judicial district where either the plaintiff or the defendant
677 resides, except:

678 (A) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
679 Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be
680 made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district
681 of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

682 (B) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
683 Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the

684 plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial
685 district of Waterbury.

686 (C) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
687 Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made
688 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
689 New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

690 (D) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
691 Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
692 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial
693 district of Waterbury.

694 (E) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
695 Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston,
696 Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of
697 the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the
698 judicial district of Bridgeport.

699 (F) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
700 Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the
701 option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the
702 judicial district of Litchfield.

703 [(G) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
704 Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury, the action may be made
705 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
706 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.]

707 [(H)] (G) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
708 Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made
709 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
710 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where
711 venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in
712 rules of court.

713 [(I)] (H) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
714 Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the

715 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district
716 of Middlesex.

717 [(J)] (I) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
718 New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
719 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district
720 of Litchfield.

721 [(K)] (I) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
722 Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the option
723 of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the judicial
724 district of Tolland.

725 (b) In all actions involving the title to land, for trespass to land and to
726 foreclose or redeem mortgages or liens upon real property, civil process
727 shall be made returnable to the judicial district where the real property
728 is located, either entirely or in part, except:

729 (1) If the land is located in the town of Manchester, East Windsor,
730 South Windsor or Enfield and either the plaintiff or the defendant
731 resides in the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or
732 Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff
733 to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of
734 Tolland.

735 (2) If the land is located in the town of Plymouth and either the
736 plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Plymouth, the action
737 may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
738 district of New Britain or the judicial district of Waterbury.

739 (3) If the land is located in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven
740 or Woodbridge and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the
741 town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may
742 be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
743 district of New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

744 (4) If the land is located in the town of Southbury and either the
745 plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Southbury, the action

746 may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
747 district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

748 (5) If the land is located in the town of Weston, Westport or Wilton
749 and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in any one of these
750 towns, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff
751 to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the judicial district
752 of Bridgeport.

753 (6) If the land is located in the town of Watertown or Woodbury and
754 either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Watertown or
755 Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
756 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the judicial district
757 of Litchfield.

758 [(7) If the land is located in the town of Avon, Canton, Farmington or
759 Simsbury and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
760 Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury, the action may be made
761 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
762 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.]

763 [(8)] (7) If the land is located in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or
764 Wethersfield and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town
765 of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made
766 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
767 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where
768 venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in
769 rules of court.

770 [(9)] (8) If the land is located in the town of New Milford and either
771 the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of New Milford, the
772 action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the
773 judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

774 (c) In all actions by a domestic or foreign business organization,
775 except actions made returnable under subsection (b), (d) or (g) of this
776 section, civil process shall be made returnable as follows:

777 (1) If the plaintiff is a domestic business organization and the
778 defendant is a resident, either (A) to the judicial district where the
779 plaintiff has an office or place of business, or (B) to the judicial district
780 where the defendant resides, except:

781 (i) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
782 Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be
783 made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district
784 of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

785 (ii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
786 Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
787 plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial
788 district of Waterbury.

789 (iii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
790 Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made
791 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
792 New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

793 (iv) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
794 Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
795 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial
796 district of Waterbury.

797 (v) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
798 Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston,
799 Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of
800 the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the
801 judicial district of Bridgeport.

802 (vi) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
803 Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the
804 option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the
805 judicial district of Litchfield.

806 [(vii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
807 Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury, the action may be made

808 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
809 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.]

810 [(viii)] (vii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town
811 of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made
812 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
813 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where
814 venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in
815 rules of court.

816 [(ix)] (viii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town
817 of Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
818 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district
819 of Middlesex.

820 [(x)] (ix) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town
821 of New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
822 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district
823 of Litchfield.

824 [(xi)] (x) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town
825 of Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the
826 option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the
827 judicial district of Tolland.

828 (2) If the plaintiff is a domestic business organization and the
829 defendant is a domestic or foreign business organization, to the judicial
830 district where (A) the plaintiff has an office or place of business, (B) the
831 injury occurred, (C) the transaction occurred, or (D) the property is
832 located or lawfully attached, except:

833 (i) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
834 Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or Enfield, the action may be
835 made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district
836 of Hartford or the judicial district of Tolland.

837 (ii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
838 Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the

839 plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial
840 district of Waterbury.

841 (iii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
842 Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made
843 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
844 New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

845 (iv) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
846 Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
847 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial
848 district of Waterbury.

849 (v) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
850 Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston,
851 Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of
852 the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the
853 judicial district of Bridgeport.

854 (vi) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
855 Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the
856 option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the
857 judicial district of Litchfield.

858 [(vii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
859 Avon, Canton, Farmington or Simsbury, the action may be made
860 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
861 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.]

862 [(viii)] (vii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town
863 of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made
864 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
865 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where
866 venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in
867 rules of court.

868 [(ix)] (viii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town
869 of Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the

870 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district
871 of Middlesex.

872 ~~[(x)]~~ (ix) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town
873 of New Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
874 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district
875 of Litchfield.

876 ~~[(xi)]~~ (x) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town
877 of Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the
878 option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the
879 judicial district of Tolland.

880 (3) If the plaintiff is a foreign business organization and the defendant
881 is a resident, to the judicial district where the defendant resides.

882 (4) If the plaintiff is a foreign business organization and the defendant
883 is a domestic or foreign business organization, to the judicial district
884 where (A) the injury occurred, (B) the transaction occurred, or (C) the
885 property is located or lawfully attached.

886 (d) In all actions involving consumer transactions, civil process shall
887 be made returnable to the judicial district where the consumer resides
888 or where the transaction occurred. For the purposes of this subsection,
889 "consumer transaction" means a transaction in which a natural person
890 obligates himself or herself to pay for goods sold or leased, services
891 rendered or moneys loaned for personal, family or household purposes.

892 (e) In all actions for the partition or sale of any property, civil process
893 shall be made returnable to the judicial district where the parties, or one
894 of them, reside; but, if none of them resides in this state, then to the
895 judicial district where all or a part of the property is located.

896 (f) In all actions by a nonresident executor, trustee under a will or
897 administrator, civil process shall be made returnable to the same judicial
898 district as would be proper if the plaintiff resided in the town where the
899 Probate Court which granted administration is held.

900 (g) Venue for small claims matters shall be at Superior Court facilities
901 designated by the Chief Court Administrator to hear such matters. In
902 small claims matters, civil process shall be made returnable to the
903 Superior Court facility designated by the Chief Court Administrator to
904 serve the small claims area where the plaintiff resides, where the
905 defendant resides or is doing business or where the transaction or injury
906 occurred. If the plaintiff is a domestic or foreign business organization,
907 civil process shall be made returnable to a Superior Court facility
908 designated by the Chief Court Administrator to serve the small claims
909 area where the defendant resides or is doing business or where the
910 transaction or injury occurred.

911 (h) (1) In all actions involving housing matters, as defined in section
912 47a-68, civil process shall be made returnable to the judicial district
913 where the premises are located, except that actions described in
914 subdivision (6) of section 47a-68 shall be heard in the geographical area
915 where the premises are located unless otherwise provided in subsection
916 (d) of section 51-348.

917 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
918 subsection concerning the judicial district to which civil process shall be
919 made returnable:

920 (A) If the premises are located in [Avon, Canton, Farmington,]
921 Newington, Rocky Hill [, Simsbury] or Wethersfield, the action may be
922 made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district
923 of Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain.

924 (B) If the premises are located in Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby,
925 Oxford, Seymour or Shelton, the action shall be made returnable to the
926 judicial district of Ansonia-Milford. After the filing of the action, the
927 plaintiff or the defendant may request a change in venue to the judicial
928 district of New Haven or the judicial district of Waterbury.

929 (C) If the premises are located in Milford, Orange or West Haven, the
930 action shall be made returnable to the judicial district of New Haven.

931 Sec. 17. Section 52-434 of the general statutes is repealed and the
932 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

933 (a) (1) Each judge of the Supreme Court, each judge of the Appellate
934 Court, each judge of the Superior Court and each judge of the Court of
935 Common Pleas who ceases or has ceased to hold office because of
936 retirement other than under the provisions of section 51-49 and who is
937 an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state referee for the
938 remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and shall be eligible
939 for appointment as a state referee during the remainder of such judge's
940 life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment of a judge of
941 the court of which such judge is a member. The Superior Court may
942 refer any civil, nonjury case or with the written consent of the parties or
943 their attorneys, any civil jury case pending before the court in which the
944 issues have been closed to a judge trial referee who shall have and
945 exercise the powers of the Superior Court in respect to trial, judgment
946 and appeal in the case, and any proceeding resulting from a demand for
947 a trial de novo pursuant to subsection (e) of section 52-549z may be
948 referred without the consent of the parties to a judge trial referee who
949 has been specifically designated to hear such proceedings pursuant to
950 subsection (b) of this section. The Superior Court may, with the consent
951 of the parties or their attorneys, refer any criminal case to a judge trial
952 referee who shall have and exercise the powers of the Superior Court in
953 respect to trial, judgment, sentencing and appeal in the case, except that
954 the Superior Court may, without the consent of the parties or their
955 attorneys, (A) refer any criminal case, other than a criminal jury trial, to
956 a judge trial referee assigned to a geographical area criminal court
957 session, and (B) refer any criminal case, other than a class A or B felony
958 or capital felony under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior
959 to April 25, 2012, to a judge trial referee to preside over the jury selection
960 process and any voir dire examination conducted in such case, unless
961 good cause is shown not to refer.

962 (2) Each judge of the Circuit Court who has ceased to hold office
963 because of retirement other than under the provisions of section 51-49
964 and who is an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state referee

965 for the remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and shall be
966 eligible for appointment as a state referee during the remainder of such
967 judge's life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment of a
968 judge of the court of which such judge is a member, to whom the
969 Superior Court may, with the written consent of the parties or their
970 attorneys, refer any case pending in court in which the issues have been
971 closed and which the judges of the Superior Court may establish by rule
972 to be the kind of case which may be heard by such referees who have
973 been appointed judge trial referees pursuant to subsection (b) of this
974 section. The judge trial referee shall hear any such case so referred and
975 report the facts to the court by which the case was referred.

976 (3) Each judge of the Juvenile Court who ceases or has ceased to hold
977 office because of retirement other than under the provisions of section
978 51-49 and who is an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state
979 referee for the remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and
980 shall be eligible for appointment as a state referee during the remainder
981 of such judge's life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment
982 of a judge of the court of which such judge is a member, to whom a judge
983 before whom any juvenile matter is pending may, with the written
984 consent of the child concerned, either of such child's parents, or such
985 child's guardian or attorney, refer any juvenile matter pending,
986 provided such referee has been appointed a judge trial referee
987 specifically designated to hear juvenile cases pursuant to subsection (b)
988 of this section. The judge trial referee shall hear any matter so referred
989 and report the facts to the court for the district from which the matter
990 was referred.

991 (4) In addition to the judge trial referees who are appointed pursuant
992 to subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection, the Chief Justice may
993 appoint, from qualified members of the bar of the state, who are electors
994 and residents of this state, as many state referees as the Chief Justice may
995 from time to time deem advisable or necessary. No appointment of a
996 member of the bar may be for a term of more than three years.
997 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, state
998 referees appointed by the Chief Justice from members of the bar shall

999 receive such reasonable compensation and expenses as may be
1000 determined by the Chief Justice. The Superior Court may appoint a state
1001 referee pursuant to this subdivision to take such evidence as it directs in
1002 any civil, nonjury case including, but not limited to, appeals under
1003 section 8-8. Any such state referee shall report on such evidence to the
1004 court with any findings of fact. The report shall constitute a part of the
1005 proceeding upon which the determination of the court shall be made.

1006 (b) The Chief Justice may designate, from among the state referees,
1007 judge trial referees to whom criminal and civil cases and juvenile
1008 matters may be referred. Criminal cases and civil cases of an adversary
1009 nature shall be referred only to state referees who are designated as
1010 judge trial referees, and proceedings resulting from a demand for a trial
1011 de novo pursuant to subsection (e) of section 52-549z shall be referred
1012 only to judge trial referees who are specifically designated to hear such
1013 proceedings. On or before October first of each year, the Chief Court
1014 Administrator shall publish the list of the judge trial referees specifically
1015 designated to hear such proceedings. Juvenile matters shall be referred
1016 only to judge trial referees who are specifically designated to hear
1017 juvenile cases. No designation pursuant to this subsection may be for a
1018 term of more than one year.

1019 (c) Each hearing by a judge trial referee shall be held in a suitable
1020 room, to be provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, in
1021 a courthouse in the judicial district where the case is pending unless the
1022 parties or their attorneys stipulate in writing that the hearing may be
1023 held elsewhere.

1024 (d) Each judge trial referee may have the attendance of a judicial
1025 marshal at any hearing before such trial referee. The judicial marshal
1026 shall receive the same compensation provided for attendance at regular
1027 sessions of the court from which the case was referred and such
1028 compensation shall be taxed by the state referee in the same manner as
1029 similar costs are taxed by the judges of the court.

1030 (e) Each judge trial referee may compel the attendance of any witness
1031 summoned to appear before such trial referee at any hearing, in the

1032 same manner as the attendance of any witness may be compelled in the
1033 Superior Court, and may punish for any act of contempt committed in
1034 such trial referee's presence while engaged in the hearing in the same
1035 manner and to the same extent as judges of the Superior Court.

1036 (f) Each judge trial referee shall receive, for acting as a referee or as a
1037 single auditor or committee of any court or for performing duties
1038 assigned by the Chief Court Administrator with the approval of the
1039 Chief Justice, for each day the judge trial referee is so engaged, in
1040 addition to the retirement salary: (1) (A) on and after July 1, 2022, the
1041 sum of two hundred eighty-five dollars, (B) on and after July 1, 2023, the
1042 sum of two hundred ninety-four dollars, and (C) on and after July 1,
1043 2024, the sum of three hundred two dollars; and (2) expenses, including
1044 mileage. Such amounts shall be taxed by the court making the reference
1045 in the same manner as other court expenses.

1046 [(g) A judge trial referee may participate in an alternative dispute
1047 resolution program approved by STA-FED ADR, Inc. in any year
1048 commencing July first provided such referee performed the duties of a
1049 judge trial referee or a senior judge for at least seventy-five days during
1050 the preceding year, except that (1) for the year commencing July 1, 1993,
1051 a judge trial referee may participate in said alternative dispute
1052 resolution program without having performed the duties of a judge trial
1053 referee or senior judge for seventy-five days during the preceding year,
1054 and (2) a judge trial referee may participate in said alternative dispute
1055 resolution program from the date such referee assumes such status,
1056 through the completion of the year commencing July first following
1057 such date without having satisfied the seventy-five-day requirement.
1058 Any judge trial referee who participates in said alternative dispute
1059 resolution program pursuant to subsection (f) of section 51-50c without
1060 having satisfied the seventy-five-day requirement set forth in said
1061 subsection shall not be eligible to participate in said program pursuant
1062 to this subsection without having satisfied the seventy-five-day
1063 requirement set forth in this subsection.]

1064 Sec. 18. Section 54-1k of the general statutes is repealed and the

1065 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1066 (a) Upon the arrest of a person for a violation of subdivision (1) or (2)
1067 of subsection (a) of section 53-21, section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70c, 53a-
1068 71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or any attempt thereof, or section 53a-
1069 181c, 53a-181d, [or] 53a-181e [,] or 53a-181f, the court may issue a
1070 protective order pursuant to this section. Upon the arrest of a person for
1071 a violation of section 53a-182b or 53a-183, the court may issue a
1072 protective order pursuant to this section if it finds that such violation
1073 caused the victim to reasonably fear for his or her physical safety. Such
1074 order shall be an order of the court, and the clerk of the court shall cause
1075 (1) a copy of such order, or the information contained in such order, to
1076 be sent to the victim, and (2) a copy of such order, or the information
1077 contained in such order, to be sent by facsimile or other means not later
1078 than forty-eight hours after its issuance to the law enforcement agency
1079 or agencies for the town in which the victim resides, the town in which
1080 the victim is employed and the town in which the defendant resides. If
1081 the victim is enrolled in a public or private elementary or secondary
1082 school, including a technical education and career school, or an
1083 institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-55, the clerk of
1084 the court shall, upon the request of the victim, send, by facsimile or other
1085 means, a copy of such order, or the information contained in such order,
1086 to such school or institution of higher education, the president of any
1087 institution of higher education at which the victim is enrolled and the
1088 special police force established pursuant to section 10a-156b, if any, at
1089 the institution of higher education at which the victim is enrolled, if the
1090 victim provides the clerk with the name and address of such school or
1091 institution of higher education.

1092 (b) A protective order issued under this section may include
1093 provisions necessary to protect the victim from threats, harassment,
1094 injury or intimidation by the defendant, including but not limited to, an
1095 order enjoining the defendant from (1) imposing any restraint upon the
1096 person or liberty of the victim, (2) threatening, harassing, assaulting,
1097 molesting or sexually assaulting the victim, or (3) entering the dwelling
1098 of the victim. A protective order issued under this section may include

1099 provisions necessary to protect any animal owned or kept by the victim
1100 including, but not limited to, an order enjoining the defendant from
1101 injuring or threatening to injure such animal. Such order shall be made
1102 a condition of the bail or release of the defendant and shall contain the
1103 following language: "In accordance with section 53a-223 of the
1104 Connecticut general statutes, any violation of this order constitutes
1105 criminal violation of a protective order which is punishable by a term of
1106 imprisonment of not more than ten years, a fine of not more than ten
1107 thousand dollars, or both. Additionally, in accordance with section 53a-
1108 107 of the Connecticut general statutes, entering or remaining in a
1109 building or any other premises in violation of this order constitutes
1110 criminal trespass in the first degree which is punishable by a term of
1111 imprisonment of not more than one year, a fine of not more than two
1112 thousand dollars, or both. Violation of this order also violates a
1113 condition of your bail or release and may result in raising the amount of
1114 bail or revoking release."

1115 (c) The information contained in and concerning the issuance of any
1116 protective order issued under this section shall be entered in the registry
1117 of protective orders pursuant to section 51-5c, as amended by this act.

1118 Sec. 19. Subsection (f) of section 54-63d of the general statutes is
1119 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1120 *passage*):

1121 (f) The Court Support Services Division shall establish written
1122 procedures for the release of information contained in reports and files
1123 of the Court Support Services Division, such procedures to be approved
1124 by the Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's
1125 designee. Such procedures shall allow access to (1) nonidentifying
1126 information by qualified persons for purposes of research related to the
1127 administration of criminal justice; (2) all information provided to the
1128 Court Support Services Division by probation officers for the purposes
1129 of compiling presentence reports; [and] (3) all information provided to
1130 the Court Support Services Division concerning any person convicted
1131 of a crime and held in custody by the Department of Correction; and (4)

1132 information concerning any person to the Department of Children and
1133 Families, provided such person's conditions of release require
1134 cooperating with said department.

1135 Sec. 20. Subsection (b) of section 54-76l of the general statutes is
1136 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1137 *passage*):

1138 (b) The records of any such youth, or any part thereof, may be
1139 disclosed to and between individuals and agencies, and employees of
1140 such agencies, providing services directly to the youth, including law
1141 enforcement officials, state and federal prosecutorial officials, school
1142 officials in accordance with section 10-233h, court officials, the Division
1143 of Criminal Justice, the Court Support Services Division, a victim
1144 advocate under section 54-220 for a victim of a crime committed by the
1145 youth and the Department of Children and Families. [if the child is
1146 under the oversight of the department's administrative unit pursuant to
1147 section 17a-3b, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information
1148 that identifies the child as residing in a justice facility or incarcerated.]
1149 Such records shall also be available to the attorney representing the
1150 youth, in any proceedings in which such records are relevant, to the
1151 parents or guardian of such youth, until such time as the youth reaches
1152 the age of majority or is emancipated, and to the youth upon his or her
1153 emancipation or attainment of the age of majority, provided proof of the
1154 identity of such youth is submitted in accordance with guidelines
1155 prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator. Such records shall also be
1156 available to members and employees of the Board of Pardons and
1157 Paroles and employees of the Department of Correction who, in the
1158 performance of their duties, require access to such records, provided the
1159 subject of the record has been adjudged a youthful offender and
1160 sentenced to a term of imprisonment or been convicted of a crime in the
1161 regular criminal docket of the Superior Court, and such records are
1162 relevant to the performance of a risk and needs assessment of such
1163 person while such person is incarcerated, the determination of such
1164 person's suitability for release from incarceration or for a pardon, or the
1165 determination of the supervision and treatment needs of such person

1166 while on parole or other supervised release. Such records shall also be
1167 available to law enforcement officials and prosecutorial officials
1168 conducting legitimate criminal investigations or seeking an order to
1169 detain pursuant to section 46b-133. Such records shall also be available
1170 to members and employees of the Judicial Review Council who, in the
1171 performance of their duties, require access to such records. Records
1172 disclosed pursuant to this subsection shall not be further disclosed.

1173 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 54-203 of the general statutes is
1174 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1175 *1, 2025*):

1176 (b) The Office of Victim Services shall have the following powers and
1177 duties:

1178 (1) To direct each hospital, whether public or private, each university
1179 or college health services center, whether public or private, and each
1180 community health center, as defined in section 19a-490a, to prominently
1181 display posters in a conspicuous location giving notice of the availability
1182 of compensation and assistance to victims of crime or their dependents
1183 pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, and to direct every law
1184 enforcement agency of the state to inform victims of crime or their
1185 dependents of their rights pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218,
1186 inclusive;

1187 (2) To obtain from the office of the state's attorney, state police, local
1188 police departments or any law enforcement agency such investigation
1189 and data as will enable the Office of Victim Services to determine if in
1190 fact the applicant was a victim of a crime or attempted crime and the
1191 extent, if any, to which the victim or claimant was responsible for his
1192 own injury, including, but not limited to, a request for information form
1193 promulgated by the Office of Victim Services;

1194 (3) To request from the Department of Correction, other units of the
1195 Judicial [Department] Branch and the Board of Pardons and Paroles
1196 such information as will enable the Office of Victim Services to
1197 determine if in fact a person who has requested notification pursuant to

1198 section 54-228 was a victim of a crime;

1199 (4) To take or cause to be taken affidavits or depositions within or
1200 without the state;

1201 (5) To apply for, receive, allocate, disburse and account for grants of
1202 funds made available by the United States, by the state, foundations,
1203 corporations and other businesses, agencies or individuals to implement
1204 a program for victim services which shall assist witnesses and victims
1205 of crimes as the Office of Victim Services deems appropriate within the
1206 resources available and to coordinate services to victims by state and
1207 community-based agencies, with priority given to victims of violent
1208 crimes, by (A) assigning such victim advocates as are necessary to
1209 provide assistance; (B) administering victim service programs; and (C)
1210 awarding grants or purchase of service contracts to private nonprofit
1211 organizations or local units of government for the direct delivery of
1212 services, except that the provision of training and technical assistance of
1213 victim service providers and the development and implementation of
1214 public education campaigns may be provided by private nonprofit or
1215 for-profit organizations or local units of government. Such grants and
1216 contracts shall be the predominant method by which the Office of
1217 Victim Services shall develop, implement and operate direct service
1218 programs and provide training and technical assistance to victim service
1219 providers;

1220 (6) To provide each person who applies for compensation pursuant
1221 to section 54-204, within ten days of the date of receipt of such
1222 application, with a written list of rights of victims of crime involving
1223 personal injury and the programs available in this state to assist such
1224 victims. The Office of Victim Services, the state or any agent, employee
1225 or officer thereof shall not be liable for the failure to supply such list or
1226 any alleged inadequacies of such list. Such list shall include, but not be
1227 limited to:

1228 (A) Subject to the provisions of sections 18-81e and 51-286e, the victim
1229 shall have the right to be informed concerning the status of his or her
1230 case and to be informed of the release from custody of the defendant;

1231 (B) Subject to the provisions of section 54-91c, the victim shall have
1232 the right to present a statement of his or her losses, injuries and wishes
1233 to the prosecutor and the court prior to the acceptance by the court of a
1234 plea of guilty or nolo contendere made pursuant to a plea agreement
1235 with the state; [wherein the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than the
1236 offense with which the defendant was originally charged;]

1237 (C) Subject to the provisions of section 54-91c, prior to the imposition
1238 of sentence upon the defendant, the victim shall have the right to submit
1239 a statement to the prosecutor as to the extent of any injuries, financial
1240 losses and loss of earnings directly resulting from the crime. Upon
1241 receipt of the statement, the prosecutor shall file the statement with the
1242 sentencing court and the statement shall be made a part of the record
1243 and considered by the court at the sentencing hearing;

1244 (D) Subject to the provisions of section 54-126a, the victim shall have
1245 the right to appear before a panel of the Board of Pardons and Paroles
1246 and make a statement as to whether the defendant should be released
1247 on parole and any terms or conditions to be imposed upon any such
1248 release;

1249 (E) Subject to the provisions of section 54-36a, the victim shall have
1250 the right to have any property the victim owns which was seized by
1251 police in connection with an arrest to be returned;

1252 (F) Subject to the provisions of sections 54-56e and 54-142c, the victim
1253 shall have the right to be notified of the application by the defendant for
1254 the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation and to obtain from
1255 the court information as to whether the criminal prosecution in the case
1256 has been dismissed;

1257 (G) Subject to the provisions of section 54-85b, the victim cannot be
1258 fired, harassed or otherwise retaliated against by an employer for
1259 appearing under a subpoena as a witness in any criminal prosecution;

1260 (H) Subject to the provisions of section 54-86g, the parent or legal
1261 guardian of a child twelve years of age or younger who is a victim of

1262 child abuse or sexual assault may request special procedural
1263 considerations to be taken during the testimony of the child;

1264 (I) Subject to the provisions of section 46b-15, the victim of assault by
1265 a spouse or former spouse, family or household member has the right
1266 to request the arrest of the offender, request a protective order and apply
1267 for a restraining order;

1268 (J) Subject to the provisions of sections 52-146k, 54-86e and 54-86f, the
1269 victim of sexual assault or domestic violence can expect certain records
1270 to remain confidential; and

1271 (K) Subject to the provisions of section 53a-32, the victim and any
1272 victim advocate assigned to assist the victim may receive notification
1273 from a probation officer whenever the officer has notified a police officer
1274 that the probation officer has probable cause to believe that the offender
1275 has violated a condition of such offender's probation;

1276 (7) Within available appropriations, to maintain a victim's assistance
1277 center which shall (A) make available to victims information regarding
1278 victim's rights and available services, (B) maintain a victims' notification
1279 system pursuant to sections 54-227 to 54-230a, inclusive, and 54-235, and
1280 (C) maintain a toll-free number for access to information regarding
1281 victims' rights and available services;

1282 (8) To provide a telephone helpline that shall provide information on
1283 referrals for various services for victims of crime and their families;

1284 (9) To provide staff services to a state advisory council. The council
1285 shall consist of not more than twenty members to be appointed by the
1286 Chief Justice and shall include the Chief Victim Compensation
1287 Commissioner and members who represent victim populations,
1288 including but not limited to, homicide survivors, family violence
1289 victims, sexual assault victims, victims of gun violence, victims of drunk
1290 drivers, and assault and robbery victims, and members who represent
1291 the judicial branch and executive branch agencies involved with victims
1292 of crime. The members shall serve for terms of four years. Any vacancy

1293 in the membership shall be filled by the appointing authority for the
1294 balance of the unexpired term. The members shall receive no
1295 compensation for their services. The council shall meet at least four
1296 times a year. The council shall recommend to the Office of Victim
1297 Services program, legislative or other matters which would improve
1298 services to victims of crime and develop and coordinate needs
1299 assessments for both court-based and community-based victim services.
1300 The Chief Justice shall appoint two members to serve as cochairpersons.
1301 Not later than December fifteenth of each year, the council shall report
1302 the results of its findings and activities to the Chief Court Administrator;

1303 (10) To utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of private
1304 individuals, agencies and organizations as may from time to time be
1305 offered and needed;

1306 (11) To recommend policies and make recommendations to agencies
1307 and officers of the state and local subdivisions of government relative to
1308 victims of crime;

1309 (12) To provide support and assistance to state-wide victim services
1310 coalitions and groups;

1311 (13) To provide a training program for judges, prosecutors, police,
1312 probation and parole personnel, bail commissioners, intake, assessment
1313 and referral specialists, officers from the Department of Correction and
1314 judicial marshals to inform them of victims' rights and available
1315 services;

1316 (14) To (A) maintain, within available appropriations, a sexual assault
1317 forensic examiners program that will train and make available sexual
1318 assault forensic examiners to adolescent and adult victims of sexual
1319 assault who are patients at participating health care facilities. In order
1320 to maintain such program, the Office of Victim Services may apply for,
1321 receive, allocate, disburse and account for grants of funds made
1322 available by the United States, the state, foundations, corporations and
1323 other businesses, agencies or individuals; or (B) establish, within
1324 available appropriations, a training program for health care

1325 professionals on the care of and collection of evidence from adolescent
1326 and adult victims of sexual assault;

1327 (15) To provide victims of crime and the general public with
1328 information detailing the process by which a victim may register to
1329 receive notices of hearings of the Board of Pardons and Paroles; and

1330 (16) To submit to the joint standing committee of the General
1331 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, in
1332 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on or before January 15,
1333 2000, and biennially thereafter a report of its activities under sections 54-
1334 201 to 54-235, inclusive.

1335 Sec. 22. Section 54-230 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1336 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1337 (a) Upon receipt of notice from [an inmate] a person who is
1338 incarcerated pursuant to section 54-227, the Office of Victim Services
1339 shall notify by first class mail or electronic mail, based on the election of
1340 the registrant, all persons who have requested to be notified pursuant
1341 to subsection (a) of section 54-228 and section 54-229 whenever such
1342 [inmate] person who is incarcerated makes application for release or
1343 sentence reduction or review. Such notice shall be in writing and notify
1344 each person of the nature of the release or sentence reduction or review
1345 being applied for, the address and telephone number of the board or
1346 agency to which the application by the [inmate] person who is
1347 incarcerated was made, and the date and place of the hearing or session,
1348 if any, scheduled on the application.

1349 (b) Upon receipt of notice from a person pursuant to subsection (b) of
1350 section 54-227, the Office of Victim Services shall notify by first class
1351 mail or electronic mail, based on the election of the registrant, all persons
1352 who have requested to be notified pursuant to subsection (b) of section
1353 54-228 whenever such person files an application with the court to be
1354 exempted from the registration requirements of section 54-251 pursuant
1355 to subsections (b) or (c) of said section or files a petition with the court
1356 pursuant to section 54-255 for an order restricting the dissemination of

1357 the registration information, or removing such restriction. Such notice
1358 shall be in writing and notify each person of the nature of the exemption
1359 or of the restriction or removal of the restriction being applied for, the
1360 address and telephone number of the court to which the application or
1361 petition by the person was made, and the date and place of the hearing
1362 or session, if any, scheduled on the application or petition.

1363 (c) Upon compliance with the notification requirements of this
1364 section, the Office of Victim Services shall notify, on a form prescribed
1365 by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, the board, agency or
1366 court to which the application or petition was made of such compliance.

1367 (d) Upon receipt of notice from the Department of Correction
1368 pursuant to section 54-231, the Office of Victim Services shall notify by
1369 first class mail or electronic mail, based on the election of the registrant,
1370 all victims who have requested to be notified pursuant to section 54-228
1371 whenever such [inmate] person who is incarcerated is scheduled to be
1372 released from a correctional institution. Such notice shall be in writing
1373 and notify each victim of the date of [such inmate's release] release of
1374 such person who is incarcerated. The victim shall notify the Office of
1375 Victim Services of his or her current mailing address, electronic mail
1376 address, if electronic mail is requested by the registrant, and telephone
1377 number, which shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed by
1378 the Office of Victim Services. Nothing in this section shall be construed
1379 to prohibit the Office of Victim Services, the Board of Pardons and
1380 Paroles and the Victim Services Unit within the Department of
1381 Correction from communicating with each other for the purpose of
1382 facilitating notification to a victim and disclosing to each other the name,
1383 mailing address and telephone number of the victim, provided such
1384 information shall not be further disclosed.

1385 Sec. 23. Section 51-85a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1386 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1387 (a) As used in this section:

1388 (1) "Communication technology" means an electronic device or

1389 process that:

1390 (A) Allows a commissioner of the Superior Court and a remotely
1391 located individual to communicate with each other simultaneously by
1392 sight and sound; and

1393 (B) When necessary and consistent with other applicable law,
1394 facilitates communication between a commissioner of the Superior
1395 Court and a remotely located individual who has a vision, hearing or
1396 speech impairment.

1397 (2) "Identity proofing" means a process or service by which a third
1398 person provides a commissioner of the Superior Court with a means to
1399 verify the identity of a remotely located individual by a review of
1400 personal information from public or private data sources.

1401 (3) "Outside the United States" means a location outside the
1402 geographic boundaries of the United States, Puerto Rico, the United
1403 States Virgin Islands and any territory, insular possession or other
1404 location subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

1405 (4) "Remotely located individual" means an individual who is not in
1406 the physical presence of the commissioner of the Superior Court who
1407 takes an acknowledgment under subsection (b) of this section.

1408 (b) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a [document]
1409 record may be acknowledged by an individual who is not in the physical
1410 presence of a commissioner of the Superior Court at the time of the
1411 acknowledgment if the following requirements are met:

1412 (1) The individual and the commissioner of the Superior Court can
1413 communicate simultaneously, in real time, by sight and sound using
1414 communication technology; and

1415 (2) When performing a remote acknowledgment pursuant to the
1416 provisions of this section, the commissioner of the Superior Court
1417 reasonably identifies the individual at the time of the acknowledgment
1418 by one or more of the following methods:

- 1419 (A) Personal knowledge of the identity of the individual;
- 1420 (B) The individual presents a government-issued identification
1421 document or record that has not expired and includes the individual's
1422 photograph, name and signature. An acceptable form of government-
1423 issued identification document or record includes, but is not limited to,
1424 a driver's license, government-issued identification card or passport;
- 1425 (C) Not less than two different types of identity proofing processes or
1426 services by which a third person provides a means to verify the identity
1427 of the individual through a review of public or private data sources; or
- 1428 (D) Oath or affirmation by a credible witness who:
- 1429 (i) Is in the physical presence of either the commissioner of the
1430 Superior Court or the individual; or
- 1431 (ii) Is able to communicate in real time with the commissioner of the
1432 Superior Court and the individual by sight and sound through an
1433 electronic device or process at the time of the acknowledgment, if the
1434 credible witness has personal knowledge of the identity of the
1435 individual and has been reasonably identified by the commissioner of
1436 the Superior Court by a method provided in this section.
- 1437 (c) When an individual who is physically located outside of the state
1438 of Connecticut or outside the United States seeks a remote
1439 acknowledgment pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the record
1440 being acknowledged shall:
- 1441 (1) Be intended for filing or presentation in a matter before a court,
1442 governmental entity, public official or other entity subject to the
1443 jurisdiction of the state of Connecticut; or
- 1444 (2) Otherwise not be prohibited by law of the state of Connecticut to
1445 be acknowledged outside the state.
- 1446 (d) Once the record acknowledged pursuant to subsection (b) of this
1447 section is signed by the individual in accordance with the procedures

1448 set forth in this section, the individual shall mail or otherwise cause to
1449 be delivered the signed original copy of the record to the commissioner
1450 of the Superior Court.

1451 (e) The date and time of an acknowledgment conducted pursuant to
1452 subsection (b) of this section shall be the date and time when the
1453 commissioner of the Superior Court witnessed the signature being
1454 performed by means of communication technology.

1455 (f) Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of a commissioner
1456 of the Superior Court to refuse to take an acknowledgment or require a
1457 commissioner of the Superior Court to take an acknowledgment:

1458 (1) With respect to an electronic record;

1459 (2) For an individual not in the physical presence of the commissioner
1460 of the Superior Court; or

1461 (3) Using a technology that the commissioner of the Superior Court
1462 has not selected.

1463 (g) No record shall be acknowledged remotely pursuant to subsection
1464 (b) of this section in (1) the making and execution of a will, codicil, trust
1465 or trust instrument, (2) the execution of health care instructions
1466 pursuant to section 19a-575a, (3) the execution of a designation of a
1467 standby guardian pursuant to section 45a-624, (4) the execution of a
1468 designation of a person for decision-making and certain rights and
1469 obligations pursuant to section 1-56r, (5) the execution of a living will,
1470 as defined in section 19a-570, (6) the execution of a power of attorney,
1471 as defined in section 1-350a, (7) the execution of a self-proving affidavit
1472 for an appointment of a health care representative or for a living will
1473 under sections 1-56r and 19a-578, (8) the execution of a mutual
1474 distribution agreement under section 45a-433, (9) the execution of an
1475 agreement as to the division of an estate under section 45a-434, (10) the
1476 execution of a disclaimer under section 45a-579 or 45a-583, or [(10)] (11)
1477 a real estate closing, as defined in section 51-88a. The performance of
1478 any such acknowledgment in connection with any of the acts described

1479 in this subsection shall be ineffective for any purpose and shall
1480 constitute a violation of section 51-88.

1481 Sec. 24. (*Effective from passage*) The Connecticut Sentencing
1482 Commission established pursuant to section 54-300 of the general
1483 statutes shall conduct a review of the habeas corpus procedures utilized
1484 by the federal government and the states of Rhode Island, New
1485 Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey,
1486 Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and
1487 Georgia and, after conducting such review, make recommendations to
1488 the General Assembly as to best practices that could be implemented in
1489 this state to: (1) Ensure a timely review and adjudication of habeas
1490 corpus claims; (2) establish standards for the presentation of repeated
1491 habeas corpus claims associated with the same incident; (3) prioritize
1492 credible habeas corpus claims and limit the filing of repetitive or
1493 meritless habeas corpus claims; and (4) provide balance between
1494 providing public counsel in habeas corpus claims and the cost of
1495 litigating repetitive or meritless claims. Not later than January 15, 2026,
1496 the executive director of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission shall
1497 report on the results of such review, in accordance with the provisions
1498 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee
1499 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
1500 judiciary.

1501 Sec. 25. Section 36a-649 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1502 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1503 As used in this section and sections 36a-650 and 36a-651:

1504 (1) "Claim" means a right to receive payment of a credit card debt;

1505 (2) "Claimant" means an entity that has, or purports to have, a claim
1506 against a debtor arising from coerced debt or allegedly coerced debt,
1507 and includes a consumer collection agency, as defined in section 36a-
1508 800, to collect said debt, or such entity's successor or assignee;

1509 (3) "Coerced debt" means any debt incurred in the name of a debtor

1510 who is a victim of domestic violence, as defined in subsection (b) of
1511 section 46b-1, when such debt was incurred in response to any duress,
1512 intimidation, threat of force, force or undue influence used to
1513 specifically coerce the debtor into incurring such debt;

1514 (4) "Collection activities" means any activity of a claimant to collect
1515 or to attempt to collect a debt owed, due or asserted to be owed or due,
1516 including, but not limited to, commencing or proceeding with an action
1517 in a court of competent jurisdiction;

1518 (5) "Credit rating agency" has the same meaning as provided in
1519 section 36a-695;

1520 (6) "Debt" means an unsecured credit card debt, or any portion of an
1521 unsecured credit card debt, incurred on or after January 1, 2025, for
1522 personal, family or household use that [(A) was not] was not (A) subject
1523 to a final judgment in an action for dissolution of marriage or collection
1524 matter which occurred prior to the time when a debtor requests that the
1525 claimant waive such debt; or (B) [was] incurred more than ten years
1526 prior to the date of the request;

1527 (7) "Debtor" means an individual against whom a claimant asserts a
1528 claim arising from coerced debt or allegedly coerced debt;

1529 (8) "Immediate family member" has the same meaning as provided in
1530 section 36a-485;

1531 (9) "Negative information" has the same meaning as provided in 15
1532 USC 1681s-2, as amended from time to time;

1533 (10) "Qualified third-party professional" means a domestic violence
1534 counselor or sexual assault counselor, as those terms are defined in
1535 section 52-146k, a psychiatrist licensed under chapter 370, a
1536 psychologist licensed under chapter 383, a clinical social worker
1537 licensed under chapter 383b, a marital and family therapist licensed
1538 under chapter 383a and a professional counselor licensed under chapter
1539 383c; and

1540 (11) "Requests that the claimant waive such debt" means a request
1541 that a claimant waive, forgive, excuse, write off or not collect a debt or
1542 portion of a debt.

1543 Sec. 26. Section 52-350f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1544 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1545 (a) A money judgment may be enforced against any property of the
1546 judgment debtor unless the property is exempt from application to the
1547 satisfaction of the judgment under section 52-352a, 52-352b, 52-352d or
1548 52-361a or any other provision of the general statutes or federal law. The
1549 money judgment may be enforced, by execution or by foreclosure of a
1550 real property lien, to the amount of the money judgment with (1) all
1551 statutory costs and fees as provided by the general statutes, (2) interest
1552 as provided by chapter 673 on the money judgment and on the costs
1553 incurred in obtaining the judgment, and (3) any attorney's fees allowed
1554 pursuant to section 52-400c.

1555 (b) In an action to enforce a money judgment by foreclosure of a real
1556 property lien, the amount of the judgment lien to attach to the property
1557 shall be calculated by taking the fair market value of the property, less
1558 any priority liens and the amount of any applicable exempt property
1559 under sections 52-352b and 52-352d. The Chief Court Administrator
1560 shall ensure that any form prescribed by the Judicial Branch relating to
1561 an action to enforce a money judgment by foreclosure of a real property
1562 lien, including, but not limited to, the foreclosure worksheet, includes
1563 the property that is not subject to debt collection under sections 52-352b
1564 and 52-352d.

1565 Sec. 27. Subsection (f) of section 53a-29 of the general statutes is
1566 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1567 *1, 2025*):

1568 (f) The period of probation [.] (1) unless terminated sooner as
1569 provided in section 53a-32, shall be not less than ten years or more than
1570 thirty-five years for conviction of a violation of section 53a-70b of the
1571 general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or

1572 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-70, 53a-
1573 70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-90a or subdivision (2), (3) or (4) of
1574 subsection (a) of section 53a-189a, or section 53a-196b, 53a-196c, 53a-
1575 196d, 53a-196e or 53a-196f, and (2) shall be five years for a violation of
1576 section 53-247.

1577 Sec. 28. Subsection (c) of section 53a-189a of the general statutes is
1578 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1579 *1, 2025*):

1580 (c) Voyeurism is (1) a class D felony for a first offense, except as
1581 provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, (2) a class C felony for any
1582 subsequent offense, and (3) a class C felony for a first offense when (A)
1583 such person has been previously convicted of an offense enumerated in
1584 subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 53a-29, as amended by this
1585 act, or (B) the intended subject of the offense is a person under sixteen
1586 years of age.

1587 Sec. 29. Section 52-278f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1588 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1589 In an action upon a commercial transaction, as defined in section 52-
1590 278a, wherein the defendant has waived his right to a notice and hearing
1591 under sections 52-278a to 52-278g, inclusive, the attorney for the plaintiff
1592 shall issue the writ for a prejudgment remedy without securing a court
1593 order provided that (1) the complaint shall set forth a copy of the waiver;
1594 (2) the plaintiff shall file an affidavit sworn to by the plaintiff or any
1595 competent affiant setting forth a statement of facts sufficient to show
1596 that there is probable cause that a judgment in the amount of the
1597 prejudgment remedy sought, or in an amount greater than the amount
1598 of the prejudgment remedy sought, taking into account any known
1599 defenses, counterclaims or set-offs, will be rendered in the matter in
1600 favor of the plaintiff; [and] (3) the plaintiff shall include in the process
1601 served on the defendant a notice satisfying the requirements of
1602 subsections (b) and (c) of section 52-278e; and (4) service of process of
1603 such complaint be returned to the court (A) within twelve days,
1604 inclusive, after the earlier of (i) service of process upon the defendant

1605 preventing the dissipation of property, or (ii) service of process upon
 1606 any third person holding property of the defendant, and (B) at least six
 1607 days before the return date.

1608 Sec. 30. Section 52-46a of the general statutes is repealed and the
 1609 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1610 Process in civil actions returnable to the Supreme Court shall be
 1611 returned to its clerk at least twenty days before the return day and, if
 1612 returnable to the Superior Court, except process in summary process
 1613 actions, the commencement of any civil action containing the issuance
 1614 of a prejudgment remedy when the defendant in a commercial
 1615 transaction has waived notice and hearing as provided under chapter
 1616 903a and petitions for parentage and support, to the clerk of such court
 1617 at least six days before the return day.

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

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17a-28(g)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	29-32b(a)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	42a-9-518(f)
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	46b-3(a)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46b-124(d)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	46b-124(f)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	47a-26e
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	47a-35a
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	51-5c(b)
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	51-47(c)
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	51-50c
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	51-50k
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	51-197f
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	51-344
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	51-345
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	52-434
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	54-1k
Sec. 19	<i>from passage</i>	54-63d(f)
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	54-76l(b)

Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	54-203(b)
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	54-230
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	51-85a
Sec. 24	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 25	<i>from passage</i>	36a-649
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	52-350f
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-29(f)
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-189a(c)
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	52-278f
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	52-46a

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a)(1) "or 'agency'" was deleted for accuracy; in Section 6(d), "release from [incarceration] the department's custody" was changed to "release from [incarceration] the custody of the Department of Correction" for clarity; and in Section 22(a), (b) and (d), "standard mail" was changed to "first class mail" for consistency with other provisions of the general statutes.

JUD *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 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Cost	Up to 164,393	Up to 316,785
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	Up to 94,177	Up to 136,104
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	35,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes concerning judicial branch operations resulting in the following impacts.

Section 1 creates the Office of Information Privacy (OIP) within the Judicial Department which results in a cost of up to \$164,393 in FY 26 and up to \$316,785 in FY 27 to the Judicial Department for up to 3 new positions² as well as associated other expenses and a cost of up to

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26. The estimated active hazardous duty employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 49.15% of payroll in FY 26.

² It is expected that the Judicial Department may require a Deputy Director, a Court Planner, and a Chief Judicial Marshal to fulfill the requirements of the bill. The annual salaries for these positions are \$119,425, \$86,553, and \$106,307 respectively.

\$94,177 in FY 26 and up to \$136,104 in FY 27 to the Office of the State Comptroller for associated fringe benefits. The FY 26 estimate is adjusted for partial year implementation and includes a one-time equipment cost of \$2,000 per position.

OIP will be required, at the request of the eligible individual³, to direct public entities to remove or to not publish specific personal information and to inform public entities when that personal information is no longer protected.

This section may also result in a potential cost to municipalities and to various state agencies beginning in FY 26 to the extent they require additional information to redact certain information.

Section 24 results in a potential cost of \$35,000 in FY 26 to the Office of Policy and Management for a part-time consultant to assist the Connecticut Sentencing Commission in (1) conducting a review of habeas corpus procedures, and (2) making recommendations on best practices.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and Office of Information Privacy caseload.

³ It is anticipated that at least 390 Judicial employees and their household members will be eligible for this service.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7255****AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES AND THE DUTIES OF JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL.**

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§ 18 — ELECTRONIC STALKING AND CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER

Expands the criminal protective order protection to victims of electronic stalking by allowing a court to issue such an order against someone arrested for that crime

§§ 21 & 22 — OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Allows crime victims to make a statement to the prosecutor and the court on any plea agreement; allows victim notifications to be sent electronically to those who request it and provide their email address to OVS; maintains the use of U.S. mail as an option

§ 23 — REMOTE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Adds the execution of an agreement as to the division of an estate to the list of records that cannot be remotely acknowledged

§ 24 — SENTENCING COMMISSION’S REVIEW OF FEDERAL HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS

Requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission to conduct a review of the habeas corpus procedures used by the federal government and select states; requires the commission to report its findings and recommendations by January 15, 2026

§ 25 — COERCED DEBT LIABILITY

Changes the lookback period for debt to be eligible to be waived as coerced debt, by requiring that the debt be less than 10 years old rather than more than 10 years old

§ 26 — MONEY JUDGMENT ENFORCEMENT

Adds provisions for an action to enforce a money judgment by foreclosure of a real property lien

§§ 27 & 28 — PROBATION PERIOD FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY CONVICTION

Establishes a five-year probation period for an offender convicted of animal cruelty

§§ 29 & 30 — CIVIL PROCESS AND COMMERCIAL WAIVERS

Addresses return of process for prejudgment remedy for certain commercial waivers

SUMMARY

This bill makes various unrelated changes in laws on court procedures and operations.

It also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

A section-by-section analysis appears below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, unless stated otherwise below.

§ 1 — OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY

Establishes the OIP within the judicial branch to, upon request, take steps to direct a public agency not to publish or to remove from the agency's website a protected person's (e.g., a judge) personal information

OIP Established Purpose

The bill establishes the Office of Information Privacy (OIP) within the judicial branch to direct a public agency not to publish or to remove any specific personal information from the agency's website, including a social media or social network, upon the request of a protected individual.

Protected Individuals. The bill categorizes the following persons as protected individuals:

1. justices, judges, or senior judges;
2. state referees;
3. family support magistrates and family support referees; and

4. the spouse, children, or dependents who live in the same household as someone listed above.

Personal Information. Under the bill, “personal information” means the individual’s:

1. home address or telephone number;
2. mobile telephone number or personal email address;
3. Social Security number or federal tax identification number;
4. driver’s license number, license plate number, or unique vehicle identifier; or
5. birth or marital record or children’s names.

It does not include information that has been publicly displayed that the protected individual has not requested to be removed, or information that is related to and part of a news story, commentary, editorial, or other speech on a matter of public concern.

Public Agency. For the purposes of the OIP’s authority under the bill, “public agency” or “agency” means any:

1. executive, administrative, or legislative office of the state or any of its political subdivisions and any state or town agency, department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority, or official of the state or of any city, town, borough, municipal corporation, school district, regional district, or other district or other political subdivision of the state, including a committee of, or created by it, and any judicial office (e.g., the Division of Public Defender Services), official, or body or committee thereof but only with respect to its or their administrative functions;
2. person to the extent the person is deemed to be the functional equivalent of a public agency according to law; or
3. “implementing agency,” which includes one of the following

agencies designated by a municipality under the Economic Development and Manufacturing Assistance Act: (a) an economic development commission, redevelopment agency, sewer authority or sewer commission, public works commission, water authority or water commission, port authority or port commission, harbor authority or harbor commission, or parking authority or parking commission; (b) a nonprofit development corporation; or (c) any other agency designated and authorized by a municipality to undertake a project and approved by the economic and community development commissioner.

OIP's Powers and Duties

The bill establishes OIP's specific powers and duties, and requires it to take any action necessary to fulfill its purposes. The bill also lays out the specific steps that the office must take in carrying out its duties as follows, based on whether the information has already been published or not.

Personal Information Published. Under the bill, if the personal information has already been published, the office must take the steps outlined below:

1. certify that an individual making the request is a protected individual;
2. work with the protected individual to identify the specific personal information that they want removed, including the exact website address where the content appears, if available, and, if the personal information is a land record, the volume and page number where it is recorded; and
3. after certifying that a requestor is a protected individual, (a) provide the public agency with the specific personal information to be removed, including the exact website address where the content appears, if available, and, if it is a land record, the record's exact website address as it appears on the website, if available, and the volume and page number where it is recorded,

and (b) direct that the personal information be removed as soon as practicable.

Personal Information Not Yet Published. If the personal information has not yet been published, the office must do the following:

1. certify the individual is a protected individual;
2. work with the protected individual to identify the specific personal information that the individual does not want to be published, including the volume and page number, if the personal information is recorded in a land record; and
3. after certifying that the requestor is a protected individual, provide the public agency with the specific personal information that the individual does not want to be published, including the volume and page number, if the personal information is recorded in a land record.

Loss of Protected Status. The office must inform the public agency whenever a previously certified protected individual no longer meets the definition of a protected individual and is no longer eligible to (1) have personal information removed from the agency's website or (2) request that the agency not publish personal information.

Public Agency's Response to Request

Upon receipt of OIP's request, the public agency must promptly acknowledge receipt of the request by email and:

1. take steps reasonably necessary to ensure that any specific personal information identified by the protected individual is not published or
2. if the specific personal information is already published, remove it as quickly as practicable after receiving the request.

Civil Liability Protection

The bill provides immunity from civil liability for an employee of a public agency whose failure to remove a protected person's personal information as requested causes damages or injuries. The liability protection applies if the employee acted in good faith and following the law.

Good Faith. Under the bill, an employee is deemed to have acted in good faith if he or she (1) reasonably believed that their actions complied with applicable laws on the protection of personal information, and (2) did not engage in gross negligence, willful misconduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

§§ 2, 6, 7, 10, 19 & 20 — DCF AND CSSD INFORMATION SHARING

Allows CSSD and DCF to share information on juveniles who have been in both systems

DCF's Confidential Records (§ 2)

By law, records maintained by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must be confidential and not be disclosed, unless the department receives written consent from the person or as provided under certain laws. The law makes exceptions that allow disclosure to certain entities for limited purposes (CGS § 17a-28(g)).

Under current law, the judicial branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) has limited access to DCF's information to (1) make certain determinations (e.g., whether the child or youth has been committed to DCF's custody as a delinquent) and (2) share common case records to track juvenile offender recidivism.

The bill instead allows DCF to disclose information on a child, youth, or any other person to CSSD so the division may determine supervision and treatment needs and track juvenile recidivism. The bill removes the limitations on the purposes for which the information may be disclosed.

Confidential Records in Juvenile Matters (§ 6)

By law, all records in juvenile matters, with certain exceptions (e.g., delinquency proceedings) are confidential and are generally not open to

inspection or disclosure to any third party unless ordered by the Superior Court (CGS § 46b-124(b)). The law allows the judicial branch to make records in delinquency proceedings available to certain people and government entities, such as DCF and the Department of Correction (DOC).

DCF. Under current law, if the child is under DCF's oversight, CSSD may generally disclose information to DCF to identify that the child is, among other things, committed by a court into DCF's custody due to being uncared for, abused, or neglected.

The bill instead allows disclosure to identify if the child is receiving services from DCF. Under the bill and existing law, this disclosure of delinquency proceeding records is limited to when DCF is providing services to the child.

DOC. Under current law, records of delinquency proceedings of a person who has been convicted of a crime in adult court may be disclosed to DOC and Board of Pardons and Paroles employees and members who need the records to do risk assessments to determine suitability for release from incarceration. The bill expands this by allowing disclosure of records for subjects who have been charged with a crime, not only for those convicted. Relatedly, it also allows disclosure of records for risk assessments to determine release from DOC custody, instead of incarceration.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

Custody Order Central Computer System (§ 7)

Under current law, information on a child who is the subject of a custody order or other process entered into the judicial branch's central computer system may be disclosed to DCF, if the information is limited to a child who was committed by a court into DCF's custody because they were uncared for, abused, or neglected. The bill instead allows this disclosure if the child is receiving services from DCF.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

Automated Registry of Protective Orders (§ 10)

By law, information in the judicial branch's automated registry of protective orders is not subject to disclosure, but the law allows the chief court administrator to grant access to the information to the personnel of certain agencies, including the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The bill now allows the chief court administrator to also grant access to information on the protective order registry to DCF.

CSSD Information, Files, and Reports (§ 19)

By law, CSSD must establish written procedures for the release of information from the division's reports and files.

Current law allows access to (1) nonidentifying information by certain persons for research related to the administration of criminal justice, (2) all information provided to CSSD by probation officers for compiling presentence reports, and (3) all information provided to CSSD on convicted persons in DOC's custody.

The bill additionally allows access to information on any person in DCF's custody if the person's conditions of release require cooperating with the department.

Youthful Offender Confidential Records and Information (§ 20)

Generally, under the law, when a juvenile matter is transferred to adult criminal court, certain juvenile offenders may qualify for youthful offender status, which provides more confidentiality of his or her records (CGS § 54-76l).

Under current law, the records may be disclosed to DCF if the child is under the oversight of the department's administrative unit and the disclosure is limited to information that identifies the child as residing in a justice facility or incarcerated. The bill allows disclosure to DCF without these conditions.

§ 3 — BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS

Reduces the membership of the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners from nine to eight by removing the retired Superior Court judge appointee

The bill reduces the membership of the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners from nine to eight. It does so by removing the retired Superior Court judge, who is appointed by the chief court administrator under current law.

By law, anyone aggrieved by an adverse action on a long gun eligibility certificate or application, including any limitation or revocation, may appeal to the board, following statutory procedures for appealing decisions on existing gun credentials.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§ 4 — UCC FALSE RECORDS

Makes permissive the Superior Court's hearing and reviewing of certain petitions to invalidate false records filed under the Uniform Commercial Code for secured transactions

By law, when a record was falsely filed or amended under the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) for secured transactions, a person identified in the record may petition the court to invalidate the record. The court must review the petition and determine whether cause exists to doubt the record's validity.

Under current law, if the court determines that cause exists, the court must hold a hearing to determine whether to invalidate the record or grant any other relief deemed appropriate. The bill instead makes this hearing permissive, so the court is not required to hold it. If the court holds a hearing it must do so within 60 days after cause was determined, as under current law.

Relatedly, the bill also specifies that the court's finding may be made solely on a review of the documentation attached to the petition and the responses, if any, of the person named as a secured party in the financing statement record and without hearing any oral testimony if the secured party offers none.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§ 5 — DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Makes a minor conforming change for consistency with other statutory references

The bill makes a minor conforming change in the statutes on family relations, by changing the term “domestic relations officers” to “domestic relations personnel” for consistency with other references.

§§ 8 & 9 — APPEAL OF SUMMARY PROCESS JUDGEMENT

Clarifies that the Superior Court orders the amount a tenant must pay the court for rent that accrues during the pendency of an appeal of a judgement and that it is not a bond

By law, in a summary process (eviction) when the court has issued a judgment, the tenant may appeal. The law allows the court to order an amount, instead of a bond, that the defendant-tenant must make as a deposit with the court as a reasonable fair rent value for the use and occupancy of the premises while the appeal is pending.

The bill clarifies that it is the Superior Court that determines how much the defendant must pay (§ 9).

It also removes a reference to an obsolete bond requirement (§ 8).

§§ 11-13 & 17 — “STA-FED, ADR, INC.”

Eliminates reference in certain statutes to the name of a nonprofit organization that used to oversee alternative dispute resolutions

The bill eliminates obsolete references in statutes to the organization, STA-FED ADR, Inc., that used to oversee alternative dispute resolutions in Connecticut.

PA 93-108 established STA-FED ADR, Inc., as a nonprofit, private corporation to oversee an alternative dispute resolution program that used state and federal senior judges and judge referees to resolve civil disputes referred by the state and federal court systems. This organization no longer exists.

§ 14 — MOTION TO FILE A LATE APPEAL

Allows the state Supreme Court to review the Connecticut Appellate Court’s decision to deny a motion to file a late appeal

Under existing law, there is no right to further review after the state Appellate Court’s final determination of an appeal, except that the

Connecticut Supreme Court has the power to certify cases for its review either (1) upon petition by an aggrieved party or (2) by the appellate panel that heard the matter.

The bill also allows the Connecticut Supreme Court to review the state Appellate Court's decision to deny a motion to file a late appeal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 15 & 16 — COURT VENUE AND SERVICE OF PROCESS

For purpose of establishing venue and where civil process should be returnable, makes changes to the judicial districts of Hartford, Litchfield, and New Britain

Venue (§ 15)

For purpose of establishing venue (i.e. where a case will be heard), the Superior Court is divided into judicial districts.

The bill removes five towns (Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby, and Simsbury) from the Hartford judicial district and one town from the New Britain district (Burlington), and it adds all six of them to the Litchfield judicial district.

Service of Process (§ 16)

The bill eliminates some of the options for where process should be returned. Generally, it eliminates the options under current law that give the plaintiff the choice between the Hartford or New Britain judicial district when the action involves the towns of Avon, Canton, Farmington, and Simsbury.

Specifically, under the bill this pertains to a civil action:

1. in which either party lives in one of those four towns;
2. that involves land, and the land and either party are located in one of these towns;
3. in which the plaintiff is a domestic business organization and has an office or a place of business in one of those towns; and
4. that involves a housing matter, and the premises is located in one

of these towns.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

§ 18 — ELECTRONIC STALKING AND CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER

Expands the criminal protective order protection to victims of electronic stalking by allowing a court to issue such an order against someone arrested for that crime

By law, upon arrest for certain crimes, the court may issue a criminal protective order against the offender. Under existing law, an arrest for any of the following violations, or an attempt to commit them, subjects the offender to a criminal protective order at the court's discretion: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th degree sexual assault; 3rd degree sexual assault with a firearm; 1st degree aggravated sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault of a minor; and certain violations of injury or risk of injury to, or impairing morals of children. A person who is arrested for a violation of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree stalking may also be issued a criminal protective order by the court.

The bill also allows the court to issue a criminal protective order against someone arrested for the crime of electronic stalking, which is a class D felony punishable by a fine up to \$5,000, up to five years in prison, or both.

By law, a criminal protective order may include provisions necessary to protect the victim from threats, harassment, injury, or intimidation by the defendant, including an order enjoining the defendant from (1) imposing any restraint on the person or liberty of the victim; (2) threatening, harassing, assaulting, molesting, or sexually assaulting the victim; or (3) entering the victim's home. It may also protect an animal (CGS § 54-1k(b)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

§§ 21 & 22 — OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Allows crime victims to make a statement to the prosecutor and the court on any plea agreement; allows victim notifications to be sent electronically to those who request it and provide their email address to OVS; maintains the use of U.S. mail as an option

Victim Statement (§ 21)

By law, the Office of Victim Services (OVS) must give victims a list of specified information within 10 days after receiving their application for victim compensation.

Under current law, among other things, this list must inform victims of their right to present a statement of their losses, injuries, and wishes to the prosecutor and the court before the court accepts a plea of guilty or nolo contendere made under a plea agreement in which the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than that with which he or she was originally charged.

Under the bill, OVS's list no longer needs to specify to the victim that they can make the statement if the defendant pleads to a lesser offense. The bill allows the victim to make a statement on any plea agreement.

Victim Notification (§ 22)

By law, if a victim or other person (i.e. registrant) requests it, OVS must notify them when certain things happen related to the incarcerated person. Under existing law this applies when the person (1) applies for release or sentence reduction or review, (2) files an application with the court to be exempt from registering for committing an offense against a minor or a nonviolent sexual offense, or (3) is scheduled for release.

Under current law, this notice must be sent via mail. Under the bill, the notice must be sent either by first class mail or electronically, whichever the registrant chooses. The bill also requires victims to notify the office of their email address if the electronic notification is requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

§ 23 — REMOTE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Adds the execution of an agreement as to the division of an estate to the list of records that cannot be remotely acknowledged

Under existing law, no record can be acknowledged remotely in the following circumstances: the making and execution of a will, codicil, trust, or trust instrument; the execution of certain health care

instructions; the execution of a designation of a standby guardian; the execution of a living will; the execution of a power of attorney; the execution of a self-proving affidavit for an appointment of a health care representative or for a living will; the execution of a mutual distribution agreement; the execution of a disclaimer; or a real estate closing.

The bill adds the execution of an agreement as to the division of an estate to the list of records that cannot be remotely acknowledged.

The bill also makes a technical change in the statutes on remote acknowledgement of documents by changing the term "document" to "records" for consistency with other references.

§ 24 — SENTENCING COMMISSION'S REVIEW OF FEDERAL HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS

Requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission to conduct a review of the habeas corpus procedures used by the federal government and select states; requires the commission to report its findings and recommendations by January 15, 2026

Scope of Review

The bill requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission to review the habeas corpus procedures used by the federal government and Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Study and Recommendations

After conducting the study, the commission must make recommendations on the best practices that could be implemented in Connecticut to:

1. ensure a timely review and adjudication of habeas corpus claims,
2. set standards for the presentation of repeated habeas corpus claims associated with the same incident,
3. prioritize credible habeas corpus claims and limit the filing of those that are repetitive or meritless, and

4. provide balance between providing public counsel in habeas corpus claims and the cost of litigating repetitive or meritless claims.

Reporting

By January 15, 2026, the commission's executive director must report the results of the review to the Judiciary Committee.

§ 25 — COERCED DEBT LIABILITY

Changes the lookback period for debt to be eligible to be waived as coerced debt, by requiring that the debt be less than 10 years old rather than more than 10 years old

By law, coerced debt is any debt incurred in the name of a debtor who is a victim of domestic violence when the debt was incurred in response to any duress, intimidation, threat of force, force, or undue influence used to specifically coerce the debtor into incurring the debt. The law prohibits anyone from knowingly causing another person to incur coerced debt and subjects any violator to civil liability.

Under current law, "debt" means an unsecured credit card debt, or any portion of one, incurred on or after January 1, 2025, for personal, family, or household use that (1) was not subject to a final judgment in an action for dissolution of marriage or collection matter that occurred prior to the time when a debtor requests that the claimant waive the debt or (2) was incurred more than 10 years before the date of the request.

The bill changes the lookback period for when the debt could have been incurred for purposes of existing law's provisions on the collection of coerced debt. Specifically, it requires that the debt be less than 10 years old rather than more than 10 years old.

§ 26 — MONEY JUDGMENT ENFORCEMENT

Adds provisions for an action to enforce a money judgment by foreclosure of a real property lien

By law, a money judgment may generally be enforced against any property of the judgment debtor unless the property is exempt from application to the satisfaction of the judgment under state or federal law.

The bill adds provisions for an action to enforce a money judgment

by foreclosure of a real property lien. In such a case, under the bill, the amount of the judgment lien to attach to the property must be calculated by taking the fair market value of the property, less any priority liens and the amount of any applicable exempt property under state law.

The bill requires the chief court administrator to ensure that any form prescribed by the judicial branch relating to an action to enforce a money judgment by foreclosure of a real property lien, including the foreclosure worksheet, includes the property not subject to debt collection under the laws on exempt property and exempt property of farm partnership.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§§ 27 & 28 — PROBATION PERIOD FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY CONVICTION

Establishes a five-year probation period for an offender convicted of animal cruelty

The probation period for offenders convicted of certain crimes, including certain sexual assault crimes, is set in law. Under current law, the probation period cannot be less than 10 years or more than 35 years, unless terminated sooner.

The bill adds conviction of animal cruelty to the list of crimes for which the law provides a probation period. It establishes five years as the probation period for someone convicted of animal cruelty (§ 27).

It also makes a conforming change (§ 28).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

§§ 29 & 30 — CIVIL PROCESS AND COMMERCIAL WAIVERS

Addresses return of process for prejudgment remedy for certain commercial waivers

Commercial Waivers (§ 29)

The bill provides that in commercial transactions when a defendant has waived the right to notice and a hearing, the plaintiff's attorney must issue the writ for prejudgment remedy without a court order if, in addition to meeting requirements in existing law, the plaintiff's lawyer

serves process of the complaint to be returned to the court:

1. within 12 days, inclusive, after the earlier of (a) service of process upon the defendant preventing the dissipation of property or (b) service of process upon any third person holding property of the defendant and
2. at least six days before the return date.

Process in Civil Actions (§ 30)

Under existing law, process in civil actions returnable to the state Supreme Court must be returned to its clerk at least 20 days before the return day and, if returnable to Superior Court (except process in evictions and petitions for parentage and support), to the clerk of the court at least six days before the return day.

The bill also exempts from the above process return time frames the commencement of any civil action containing the issuance of a prejudgment remedy when the defendant, in a commercial transaction, has waived notice and hearing as provided above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/04/2025)