



House of Representatives

File No. 951

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

(Reprint of File No. 773)

Substitute House Bill No. 7255
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 22, 2025

**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 may perform the following 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 and each succeeding page number within a document that
46 contains personal information that needs to be redacted.

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

57 (4) Work with a protected individual to identify the specific personal
58 information that the individual does not want to be published including
59 the volume and page number and each succeeding page number within
60 a document that contains personal information that needs to be
61 redacted, if the personal information is recorded in a land record.

62 (5) After certifying that a requestor is a protected individual, provide
63 the public agency with the specific personal information that the
64 individual does not want to be published including the volume and
65 page number and each succeeding page number within a document that
66 contains personal information that needs to be redacted, if the personal
67 information is recorded in a land record.

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

74 (e) Upon receipt of a request pursuant to subsection (c) of this section,
75 a public agency shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the request by
76 electronic mail and: (1) Take steps reasonably necessary to ensure that
77 any specific personal information identified by the protected individual
78 is not published; or (2) if such specific personal information is already
79 published, remove the personal information identified as quickly as
80 practicable after receipt of the request.

81 (f) No employee of a public agency shall be held civilly liable for any
82 damages or injuries that occur as a result of the failure to remove
83 requested personal information of a protected individual from the
84 Internet, social media or social networks, provided the employee acted
85 in good faith.

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

91 (h) Nothing in this section shall require the removal or redaction of
92 personal information contained in records required to be published in
93 accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section
94 1-200 of the general statutes, including agendas, minutes, videos or
95 transcripts of public meetings.

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

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

102 (1) The person named in the record or such person's authorized
103 representative, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information
104 (A) contained in the record about such person or about such person's

105 biological or adoptive minor child, if such person's parental rights to
106 such child have not been terminated; and (B) identifying an individual
107 who reported abuse or neglect of the person, including any tape
108 recording of an oral report pursuant to section 17a-103, if a court
109 determines that there is reasonable cause to believe the reporter
110 knowingly made a false report or that the interests of justice require
111 disclosure;

112 (2) An employee of the department for any purpose reasonably
113 related to the performance of such employee's duties;

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

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

127 (5) The Attorney General, any assistant attorney general or any other
128 legal counsel retained to represent the department during the course of
129 a legal proceeding involving the department or an employee of the
130 department;

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

132 (7) The Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's designee
133 for purposes of ensuring competent representation by the attorneys
134 with whom the Chief Public Defender contracts to provide legal and
135 guardian ad litem services to the subjects of such records and for

136 ensuring accurate payments for services rendered by such attorneys;

137 (8) The Chief State's Attorney or the Chief State's Attorney's designee
138 for purposes of investigating or prosecuting (A) an allegation related to
139 child abuse or neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false
140 report of suspected child abuse or neglect, (C) an allegation that a
141 mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in
142 accordance with section 17a-101a, provided such prosecuting authority
143 shall have access to records of a child charged with the commission of a
144 delinquent act, who is not being charged with an offense related to child
145 abuse, only while the case is being prosecuted and after obtaining a
146 release, or (D) an allegation of fraud in the receipt of public or private
147 benefits, provided no information identifying the subject of the record
148 is disclosed unless such information is essential to such investigation or
149 prosecution;

150 (9) A state or federal law enforcement officer, including a military law
151 enforcement authority under the United States Department of Defense,
152 for purposes of investigating (A) an allegation related to child abuse or
153 neglect, (B) an allegation that an individual made a false report of
154 suspected child abuse or neglect, or (C) an allegation that a mandated
155 reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance
156 with section 17a-101a;

157 (10) A foster or prospective adoptive parent, if the records pertain to
158 a child or youth currently placed with the foster or prospective adoptive
159 parent, or a child or youth being considered for placement with the
160 foster or prospective adoptive parent, and the records are necessary to
161 address the social, medical, psychological or educational needs of the
162 child or youth, provided no information identifying a biological parent
163 is disclosed without the permission of such biological parent;

164 (11) The Governor, when requested in writing in the course of the
165 Governor's official functions, the joint standing committee of the
166 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human
167 services, the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having

168 cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary or the joint standing
169 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
170 relating to children, when requested in writing by any of such
171 committees in the course of such committee's official functions, and
172 upon a majority vote of such committee, provided no name or other
173 identifying information is disclosed unless such information is essential
174 to the gubernatorial or legislative purpose;

175 (12) The Office of Early Childhood for the purpose of (A) determining
176 the suitability of a person to care for children in a facility licensed
177 pursuant to section 19a-77, 19a-80, 19a-87b or 19a-421; (B) determining
178 the suitability of such person for licensure; (C) determining the
179 suitability of a person to provide child care services to a child and
180 receive a child care subsidy pursuant to section 17b-749k; (D) an
181 investigation conducted pursuant to section 19a-80f; (E) notifying the
182 office when the Department of Children and Families places an
183 individual licensed or certified by the office on the child abuse and
184 neglect registry pursuant to section 17a-101k; or (F) notifying the office
185 when the Department of Children and Families possesses information
186 regarding an office regulatory violation committed by an individual
187 licensed or certified by the office;

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

200 (14) Any individual or entity for the purposes of identifying resources

201 that will promote the permanency plan of a child or youth approved by
202 the court pursuant to sections 17a-11, 17a-111b and 46b-129;

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

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

208 (17) A judge of the Superior Court for purposes of determining the
209 appropriate disposition of a child adjudicated as delinquent;

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

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

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

222 (21) A local or regional board of education, provided the records are
223 limited to educational records created or obtained by the state or
224 Connecticut Unified School District #2, established pursuant to section
225 17a-37;

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

230 (23) The Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of criminal
231 history records checks pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-44,
232 provided information disclosed pursuant to this subdivision shall be
233 limited to information included on the Department of Children and
234 Families child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section
235 17a-101k, subject to the provisions of sections 17a-101g and 17a-101k
236 concerning the nondisclosure of findings of responsibility for abuse and
237 neglect;

238 (24) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for the
239 purpose of treatment planning for young adults who have transitioned
240 from the care of the Department of Children and Families;

241 (25) The superintendent of a public school district or the executive
242 director or other head of a public or private institution for children
243 providing care for children or a private school (A) pursuant to sections
244 17a-11, 17a-101b, 17a-101c, 17a-101i, 17a-111b and 46b-129, or (B) when
245 the Department of Children and Families places an individual
246 employed by such institution or school on the child abuse and neglect
247 registry pursuant to section 17a-101k;

248 (26) The Department of Social Services for the purpose of (A)
249 determining the suitability of a person for payment from the
250 Department of Social Services for providing child care; (B) promoting
251 the health, safety and welfare of a child or youth receiving services from
252 either department; or (C) investigating allegations of fraud provided no
253 information identifying the subject of the record is disclosed unless such
254 information is essential to any such investigation;

255 (27) The Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch, [to
256 allow the division to determine] for the purpose of (A) determining the
257 supervision and treatment needs of a child or youth or any other person,
258 and provide appropriate supervision and treatment services to such
259 child or youth [, provided such disclosure shall be limited to
260 information that identifies the child or youth, or a member of such
261 child's or youth's immediate family, as being or having been (A)

262 committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families
263 as delinquent, (B) under the supervision of the Commissioner of
264 Children and Families, or (C) enrolled in the voluntary services program
265 operated by the Department of Children and Families;

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

269 [(29)] (28) The birth-to-three program's referral intake office for the
270 purpose of (A) determining eligibility of, (B) facilitating enrollment for,
271 and (C) providing services to (i) substantiated victims of child abuse and
272 neglect with suspected developmental delays, and (ii) newborns
273 impacted by withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug
274 exposure;

275 [(30)] (29) The Department of Public Health for (A) the purpose of
276 notification when the Commissioner of Children and Families places an
277 individual licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health on
278 the child abuse and neglect registry established pursuant to section 17a-
279 101k, and (B) purposes relating to the licensure of the Albert J. Solnit
280 Children's Center and the administration of licensing requirements
281 established pursuant to or set forth in sections 19a-134 and 19a-498;

282 [(31)] (30) The Department of Correction, for the purpose of
283 determining the supervision and treatment needs of a child or youth,
284 and providing appropriate supervision and treatment services to such
285 child or youth;

286 [(32)] (31) Any child placing agency subject to licensure by the
287 Department of Children and Families, for the purpose of determining
288 the suitability of a person (A) for employment by such agency, or (B) to
289 adopt or provide foster care pursuant to sections 17a-114 and 17a-151;

290 [(33)] (32) The Department of Administrative Services, for the
291 purpose of determining whether an applicant for employment with the
292 state, who would have contact with children in the course of such

293 employment, appears on the child abuse or neglect registry maintained
294 pursuant to section 17a-101k; and

295 [(34)] (33) Any individual, upon the request of such individual, when
296 the information concerns an incident of abuse or neglect that resulted in
297 the fatality or near fatality of a child or youth, provided (A) such
298 disclosure shall be limited to (i) the cause and circumstances of such
299 fatality or near fatality, (ii) the age and gender of such child or youth,
300 (iii) a description of any previous reports of or investigations into child
301 abuse or neglect that are relevant to the child abuse or neglect that led
302 to such fatality or near fatality, (iv) the findings of any such
303 investigations, and (v) a description of any services provided and
304 actions taken by the state on behalf of such child or youth that are
305 relevant to the child abuse or neglect that led to such fatality or near
306 fatality, and (B) the department shall not make any disclosure that is
307 prohibited by the provisions of any relevant federal law, including, but
308 not limited to, Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, as
309 amended from time to time. The department may withhold the
310 disclosure of any records described in this subdivision if the
311 commissioner determines that such disclosure may (i) result in harm to
312 the safety or well-being of the child or youth who is the subject of such
313 records, the family of such child or youth, or any individual who made
314 a report of abuse or neglect pertaining to such child or youth, or (ii)
315 interfere with a pending criminal investigation.

316 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 29-32b of the general statutes is
317 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
318 *2025*):

319 (a) There is established a Board of Firearms Permit Examiners, within
320 the Office of Governmental Accountability established under section 1-
321 300, to be comprised of [nine] eight members [, eight of whom] who shall
322 be appointed by the Governor to serve during the Governor's term and
323 until such members' successors are appointed and qualify. [, and one of
324 whom shall be a retired judge of the Superior Court appointed by the
325 Chief Court Administrator.] With the exception of two public members,

326 the members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed from
327 nominees of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
328 Protection, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
329 the Connecticut State Association of Chiefs of Police, the Commissioner
330 of Energy and Environmental Protection, The Connecticut State Rifle
331 and Revolver Association, Inc., and Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc., and
332 each of said organizations shall be entitled to representation on the
333 board. At least one member of the board appointed by the Governor
334 shall be a lawyer licensed to practice in this state who shall act as
335 chairman of the board during the hearing of appeals brought under this
336 section.

337 Sec. 4. Subsection (f) of section 42a-9-518 of the general statutes is
338 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
339 *2025*):

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

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

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

368 (4) If the court determines [after a hearing] that a record identified in
369 a petition filed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection is not valid,
370 the court shall render a judgment that such record is void in its entirety
371 and shall direct the custodian of such record, when feasible, to note that
372 such record is not valid. The court may grant such other relief as it
373 deems appropriate. The petitioner under subdivision (1) of this
374 subsection shall provide a copy of the petition and the judgment of the
375 court granting such petition to the custodian of the record adjudged
376 invalid by the court.

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

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

392 interest of the disposition of family relations matters.

393 Sec. 6. Subsection (d) of section 46b-124 of the general statutes is
394 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
395 *2025*):

396 (d) Records of cases of juvenile matters involving delinquency
397 proceedings shall be available to (1) Judicial Branch employees who, in
398 the performance of their duties, require access to such records, (2) judges
399 and employees of the Probate Court who, in the performance of their
400 duties, require access to such records, and (3) employees and authorized
401 agents of municipal, state or federal agencies involved in (A) the
402 delinquency proceedings, (B) the provision of services directly to the
403 child, (C) the delivery of court diversionary programs, or (D) the
404 evaluation of a proposed transfer of a firearm to a person under the age
405 of twenty-one in this state or any other state, as required by Title II,
406 Section 12001 of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, Public Law 117-
407 159, as amended from time to time. Such employees and authorized
408 agents include, but are not limited to, law enforcement officials,
409 community-based youth service bureau officials, state and federal
410 prosecutorial officials, school officials in accordance with section 10-
411 233h, court officials including officials of both the regular criminal
412 docket and the docket for juvenile matters and officials of the Division
413 of Criminal Justice, the Division of Public Defender Services, the
414 Department of Children and Families, if the child is under the oversight
415 of the department's administrative unit pursuant to section 17a-3b,
416 provided such disclosure shall be limited to information that identifies
417 the child as residing in a justice facility or incarcerated, or, if the child is
418 [committed pursuant to section 46b-129] receiving services from the
419 department, provided such disclosure shall be limited to (i) information
420 that identifies the child as the subject of the delinquency petition, or (ii)
421 the records of the delinquency proceedings, when the [juvenile court
422 orders the department to provide] department is providing services to
423 said child, the Court Support Services Division and agencies under
424 contract with the Judicial Branch. Such records shall also be available to
425 (I) the attorney representing the child, including the Division of Public

426 Defender Services, in any proceeding in which such records are
427 relevant, (II) the parents or guardian of the child, until such time as the
428 subject of the record reaches the age of majority, (III) the subject of the
429 record, upon submission of satisfactory proof of the subject's identity,
430 pursuant to guidelines prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court
431 Administrator, provided the subject has reached the age of majority,
432 (IV) law enforcement officials and prosecutorial officials conducting
433 legitimate criminal investigations, as provided in subsection (o) of this
434 section or orders to detain pursuant to section 46b-133, (V) a state or
435 federal agency providing services related to the collection of moneys
436 due or funding to support the service needs of eligible juveniles,
437 provided such disclosure shall be limited to that information necessary
438 for the collection of and application for such moneys, (VI) members and
439 employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and employees of the
440 Department of Correction who, in the performance of their duties,
441 require access to such records, provided the subject of the record has
442 been charged with or has been convicted of a crime in the regular
443 criminal docket of the Superior Court and such records are relevant to
444 the performance of a risk and needs assessment of such person while
445 such person is incarcerated, the determination of such person's
446 suitability for release from [incarceration] the custody of the
447 Department of Correction or for a pardon, or the determination of the
448 supervision and treatment needs of such person while on parole or other
449 supervised release, and (VII) members and employees of the Judicial
450 Review Council who, in the performance of their duties related to said
451 council, require access to such records. Records disclosed pursuant to
452 this subsection shall not be further disclosed, except that information
453 contained in such records may be disclosed in connection with bail or
454 sentencing reports in open court during criminal proceedings involving
455 the subject of such information, or as otherwise provided by law.

456 Sec. 7. Subsection (f) of section 46b-124 of the general statutes is
457 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
458 *2025*):

459 (f) Information concerning a child who is the subject of an order to

460 take such child into custody or other process that has been entered into
461 a central computer system pursuant to subsection (i) of section 46b-133
462 may be disclosed to employees and authorized agents of the Judicial
463 Branch, law enforcement agencies and the Department of Children and
464 Families, provided the information is limited to a child who [has been
465 committed pursuant to section 46b-129] is receiving services from the
466 department, in accordance with policies and procedures established by
467 the Chief Court Administrator.

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

470 If an order of payments is in effect on the date of judgment in the trial
471 court and an appeal is taken by any party, the order shall remain in
472 effect and compliance with the order shall constitute satisfactory
473 compliance with [the bond requirement] subsection (a) of section 47a-
474 35a, as amended by this act.

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

477 (a) When any appeal is taken by the defendant occupying a dwelling
478 unit in an action of summary process, the chief clerk of the Appellate
479 Court, or the chief clerk's designee, shall transmit notice of the pendency
480 of the appeal to the Superior Court that rendered the judgment that is
481 the subject of the appeal. Upon receipt of the notice of the pendency of
482 such appeal, the Superior Court shall schedule and conduct a hearing to
483 guarantee payment for all rents that may accrue during the pendency of
484 such appeal. The Superior Court shall schedule and conduct such
485 hearing not later than fourteen days after the date of receiving notice of
486 the pendency of such appeal. After conducting such hearing the
487 Superior Court may order the defendant to deposit with the court (1) an
488 amount equal to the defendant's portion of the last-agreed upon rent, or
489 (2) where no lease had existed, an amount equal to the reasonable value
490 for such use and occupancy that may so accrue. After hearing thereon,
491 the court shall order the defendant to deposit with the court payments

492 for the reasonable fair rental value of the use and occupancy of the
493 premises during the pendency of such appeal accruing from the date of
494 such order. Such order shall permit the payment of such amount in
495 monthly installments, as it becomes due. If all or a portion of the
496 defendant's rent is being paid to the plaintiff by a housing authority,
497 municipality, state agency or similar entity, this requirement shall be
498 satisfied if the defendant deposits with the court an amount equal to the
499 defendant's portion of the rent.

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

503 (c) When any appeal is taken by a plaintiff in an action of summary
504 process, the [court] Superior Court, upon motion of the plaintiff and
505 after a hearing thereon, shall order the defendant to deposit with the
506 court payments in monthly installments, as each payment becomes due,
507 for the reasonable fair rental value of the use and occupancy of the
508 premises during the pendency of the appeal accruing from the date of
509 such order.

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

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

523 (2) Any judge of the Superior Court or any employee of the Judicial

524 [Department] Branch who is authorized by policies and procedures
525 adopted by the Chief Court Administrator pursuant to subsection (a) of
526 this section shall have access to such information. The Chief Court
527 Administrator may grant access to such information to personnel of the
528 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the
529 Department of Correction, the Department of Children and Families, the
530 Board of Pardons and Paroles, the Psychiatric Security Review Board,
531 the Division of Criminal Justice, any municipal or tribal police
532 department within this state or any other agency, organization or person
533 determined by the Chief Court Administrator, pursuant to policies and
534 procedures adopted by the Chief Court Administrator, to have a
535 legitimate interest in the information contained in the registry. Any
536 person who obtains such information pursuant to this subdivision may
537 use and disclose the information only in the performance of such
538 person's duties.

539 (3) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the
540 information contained in the registry shall be provided to and may be
541 accessed through the Connecticut on-line law enforcement
542 communications teleprocessing system maintained by the Department
543 of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Nothing in this section
544 shall be construed to permit public access to the Connecticut on-line law
545 enforcement communications teleprocessing system.

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

549 (c) Each such judge shall be an elector and a resident of this state,
550 shall be a member of the bar of the state of Connecticut and shall not
551 engage in private practice, nor on or after July 1, 1985, be a member of
552 any board of directors or of any advisory board of any state bank and
553 trust company, state bank or savings and loan association, national
554 banking association or federal savings bank or savings and loan
555 association. [Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a senior judge
556 from participating in any alternative dispute resolution program

557 approved by STA-FED ADR, Inc.]

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

560 (a) (1) Any senior judge of the Supreme Court may be designated and
561 assigned by the Chief Justice or the Chief Court Administrator to
562 perform such judicial duties in the Supreme Court or by the Chief Court
563 Administrator to perform such judicial duties in the Superior Court, as
564 such senior judge is willing to undertake; (2) any senior judge of the
565 Appellate Court may be designated by the Chief Judge of the Appellate
566 Court or the Chief Court Administrator to perform such judicial duties
567 in the Appellate Court or by the Chief Court Administrator to perform
568 such judicial duties in the Superior Court, as such senior judge is willing
569 to undertake.

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

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

576 (d) The Chief Court Administrator may designate, assign or summon
577 any senior judge, in any matter in which the Chief Court Administrator
578 may designate, assign or summon a judge or judges, to sit or act in any
579 judicial capacity.

580 (e) The Chief Court Administrator may make new designations and
581 assignments in accordance with the provisions of this section and may
582 revoke designations and assignments previously made by the Chief
583 Court Administrator.

584 [(f) A senior judge may participate in an alternative dispute
585 resolution program approved by STA-FED ADR, Inc. in any year
586 commencing July first provided such judge performed the duties of a

587 senior judge for at least seventy-five days during the preceding year,
588 except that (1) for the year commencing July 1, 1993, a senior judge may
589 participate in said alternative dispute resolution program without
590 having performed the duties of a senior judge for seventy-five days
591 during the preceding year and (2) a senior judge may participate in said
592 alternative dispute resolution program from the date such judge
593 assumes the status of a senior judge, through the completion of the year
594 commencing July first following such date, without having satisfied the
595 seventy-five-day requirement.]

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

598 Each retired justice or judge who is designated and assigned by the
599 Chief Justice or the Chief Court Administrator to perform judicial duties
600 shall be an elector and a resident of this state, shall be a member of the
601 bar of the state of Connecticut and shall not engage in private practice.
602 [Participation in an alternative dispute resolution program approved by
603 STA-FED ADR, Inc. shall not be considered the private practice of law.]

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

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

619 modified by rule of the justices of the Supreme Court.

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

622 For purposes of establishing venue, the Superior Court shall consist
623 of the following judicial districts:

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

627 (2) The judicial district of Danbury, consisting of the towns of Bethel,
628 Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield
629 and Sherman;

630 (3) The judicial district of Bridgeport, consisting of the towns of
631 Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull;

632 (4) The judicial district of Hartford, consisting of the towns of [Avon,]
633 Bloomfield, [Canton,] East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor,
634 Enfield, [Farmington,] Glastonbury, [Granby,] Hartford, Manchester,
635 Marlborough, [Simsbury,] South Windsor, Suffield, West Hartford,
636 Windsor and Windsor Locks;

637 (5) The judicial district of Litchfield, consisting of the towns of Avon,
638 Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Burlington, Canaan, Canton,
639 Colebrook, Cornwall, Farmington, Goshen, Granby, Hartland,
640 Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, New Milford,
641 Norfolk, North Canaan, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Simsbury,
642 Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington and Winchester;

643 (6) The judicial district of Middlesex, consisting of the towns of
644 Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East
645 Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown, Old
646 Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook;

647 (7) The judicial district of New Britain, consisting of the towns of

648 Berlin, Bristol, [Burlington,] New Britain, Newington, Plainville,
649 Plymouth, Rocky Hill, Southington and Wethersfield;

650 (8) The judicial district of New Haven, consisting of the towns of
651 Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison,
652 Meriden, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Wallingford and
653 Woodbridge;

654 (9) The judicial district of New London, consisting of the towns of
655 Bozrah, Colchester, East Lyme, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Lebanon,
656 Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Montville, New London, North Stonington,
657 Norwich, Old Lyme, Preston, Salem, Sprague, Stonington, Voluntown
658 and Waterford;

659 (10) The judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk, consisting of the
660 towns of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston,
661 Westport and Wilton;

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

665 (12) The judicial district of Waterbury, consisting of the towns of
666 Middlebury, Naugatuck, Prospect, Southbury, Waterbury, Watertown,
667 Wolcott and Woodbury; and

668 (13) The judicial district of Windham, consisting of the towns of
669 Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly,
670 Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling, Thompson, Windham
671 and Woodstock.

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

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

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

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

682 (3) If either or both the plaintiff or the defendant are residents of this
683 state, to the judicial district where either the plaintiff or the defendant
684 resides, except:

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

689 (B) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
690 Plymouth, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
691 plaintiff to either the judicial district of New Britain or the judicial
692 district of Waterbury.

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

697 (D) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
698 Southbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
699 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial
700 district of Waterbury.

701 (E) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
702 Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston,
703 Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of
704 the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the
705 judicial district of Bridgeport.

706 (F) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of

707 Watertown or Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the
708 option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the
709 judicial district of Litchfield.

710 (G) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Avon
711 [, Canton, Farmington] or Simsbury, the action may be made returnable
712 at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or
713 the judicial district of [New Britain] Litchfield.

714 (H) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
715 Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made
716 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
717 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where
718 venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in
719 rules of court.

720 (I) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
721 Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
722 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district
723 of Middlesex.

724 (J) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of New
725 Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff
726 to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of
727 Litchfield.

728 (K) If either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of
729 Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the option
730 of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the judicial
731 district of Tolland.

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

736 (1) If the land is located in the town of Manchester, East Windsor,

737 South Windsor or Enfield and either the plaintiff or the defendant
738 resides in the town of Manchester, East Windsor, South Windsor or
739 Enfield, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff
740 to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district of
741 Tolland.

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

746 (3) If the land is located in the town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven
747 or Woodbridge and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the
748 town of Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may
749 be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
750 district of New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

751 (4) If the land is located in the town of Southbury and either the
752 plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Southbury, the action
753 may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
754 district of Ansonia-Milford or the judicial district of Waterbury.

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

760 (6) If the land is located in the town of Watertown or Woodbury and
761 either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of Watertown or
762 Woodbury, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
763 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Waterbury or the judicial district
764 of Litchfield.

765 (7) If the land is located in the town of Avon [, Canton, Farmington]
766 or Simsbury and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town
767 of Avon [, Canton, Farmington] or Simsbury, the action may be made

768 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
769 Hartford or the judicial district of [New Britain] Litchfield.

770 (8) If the land is located in the town of Newington, Rocky Hill or
771 Wethersfield and either the plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town
772 of Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made
773 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
774 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where
775 venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in
776 rules of court.

777 (9) If the land is located in the town of New Milford and either the
778 plaintiff or the defendant resides in the town of New Milford, the action
779 may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
780 district of Danbury or the judicial district of Litchfield.

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

784 (1) If the plaintiff is a domestic business organization and the
785 defendant is a resident, either (A) to the judicial district where the
786 plaintiff has an office or place of business, or (B) to the judicial district
787 where the defendant resides, except:

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

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

796 (iii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
797 Bethany, Milford, West Haven or Woodbridge, the action may be made

798 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
799 New Haven or the judicial district of Ansonia-Milford.

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

804 (v) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
805 Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston,
806 Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of
807 the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the
808 judicial district of Bridgeport.

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

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

817 (viii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
818 Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made
819 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
820 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where
821 venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in
822 rules of court.

823 (ix) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
824 Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
825 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district
826 of Middlesex.

827 (x) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of New

828 Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff
829 to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of
830 Litchfield.

831 (xi) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
832 Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the option
833 of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the judicial
834 district of Tolland.

835 (2) If the plaintiff is a domestic business organization and the
836 defendant is a domestic or foreign business organization, to the judicial
837 district where (A) the plaintiff has an office or place of business, (B) the
838 injury occurred, (C) the transaction occurred, or (D) the property is
839 located or lawfully attached, except:

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

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

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

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

856 (v) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
857 Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston,

858 Westport or Wilton, the action may be made returnable at the option of
859 the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Stamford-Norwalk or the
860 judicial district of Bridgeport.

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

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

869 (viii) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
870 Newington, Rocky Hill or Wethersfield, the action may be made
871 returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of
872 Hartford or the judicial district of New Britain, except for actions where
873 venue is in the geographical area as provided in section 51-348 or in
874 rules of court.

875 (ix) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
876 Cromwell, the action may be made returnable at the option of the
877 plaintiff to either the judicial district of Hartford or the judicial district
878 of Middlesex.

879 (x) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of New
880 Milford, the action may be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff
881 to either the judicial district of Danbury or the judicial district of
882 Litchfield.

883 (xi) If the plaintiff has an office or place of business in the town of
884 Windham or Ashford, the action may be made returnable at the option
885 of the plaintiff to either the judicial district of Windham or the judicial
886 district of Tolland.

887 (3) If the plaintiff is a foreign business organization and the defendant

888 is a resident, to the judicial district where the defendant resides.

889 (4) If the plaintiff is a foreign business organization and the defendant
890 is a domestic or foreign business organization, to the judicial district
891 where (A) the injury occurred, (B) the transaction occurred, or (C) the
892 property is located or lawfully attached.

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

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

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

907 (g) Venue for small claims matters shall be at Superior Court facilities
908 designated by the Chief Court Administrator to hear such matters. In
909 small claims matters, civil process shall be made returnable to the
910 Superior Court facility designated by the Chief Court Administrator to
911 serve the small claims area where the plaintiff resides, where the
912 defendant resides or is doing business or where the transaction or injury
913 occurred. If the plaintiff is a domestic or foreign business organization,
914 civil process shall be made returnable to a Superior Court facility
915 designated by the Chief Court Administrator to serve the small claims
916 area where the defendant resides or is doing business or where the
917 transaction or injury occurred.

918 (h) (1) In all actions involving housing matters, as defined in section

919 47a-68, civil process shall be made returnable to the judicial district
920 where the premises are located, except that actions described in
921 subdivision (6) of section 47a-68 shall be heard in the geographical area
922 where the premises are located unless otherwise provided in subsection
923 (d) of section 51-348.

924 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
925 subsection concerning the judicial district to which civil process shall be
926 made returnable:

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

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

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

938 (D) If the premises are located in Avon or Simsbury, the action shall
939 be made returnable at the option of the plaintiff to either the judicial
940 district of Hartford or the judicial district of Litchfield.

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

943 (a) (1) Each judge of the Supreme Court, each judge of the Appellate
944 Court, each judge of the Superior Court and each judge of the Court of
945 Common Pleas who ceases or has ceased to hold office because of
946 retirement other than under the provisions of section 51-49 and who is
947 an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state referee for the
948 remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and shall be eligible

949 for appointment as a state referee during the remainder of such judge's
950 life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment of a judge of
951 the court of which such judge is a member. The Superior Court may
952 refer any civil, nonjury case or with the written consent of the parties or
953 their attorneys, any civil jury case pending before the court in which the
954 issues have been closed to a judge trial referee who shall have and
955 exercise the powers of the Superior Court in respect to trial, judgment
956 and appeal in the case, and any proceeding resulting from a demand for
957 a trial de novo pursuant to subsection (e) of section 52-549z may be
958 referred without the consent of the parties to a judge trial referee who
959 has been specifically designated to hear such proceedings pursuant to
960 subsection (b) of this section. The Superior Court may, with the consent
961 of the parties or their attorneys, refer any criminal case to a judge trial
962 referee who shall have and exercise the powers of the Superior Court in
963 respect to trial, judgment, sentencing and appeal in the case, except that
964 the Superior Court may, without the consent of the parties or their
965 attorneys, (A) refer any criminal case, other than a criminal jury trial, to
966 a judge trial referee assigned to a geographical area criminal court
967 session, and (B) refer any criminal case, other than a class A or B felony
968 or capital felony under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior
969 to April 25, 2012, to a judge trial referee to preside over the jury selection
970 process and any voir dire examination conducted in such case, unless
971 good cause is shown not to refer.

972 (2) Each judge of the Circuit Court who has ceased to hold office
973 because of retirement other than under the provisions of section 51-49
974 and who is an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state referee
975 for the remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and shall be
976 eligible for appointment as a state referee during the remainder of such
977 judge's life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment of a
978 judge of the court of which such judge is a member, to whom the
979 Superior Court may, with the written consent of the parties or their
980 attorneys, refer any case pending in court in which the issues have been
981 closed and which the judges of the Superior Court may establish by rule
982 to be the kind of case which may be heard by such referees who have

983 been appointed judge trial referees pursuant to subsection (b) of this
984 section. The judge trial referee shall hear any such case so referred and
985 report the facts to the court by which the case was referred.

986 (3) Each judge of the Juvenile Court who ceases or has ceased to hold
987 office because of retirement other than under the provisions of section
988 51-49 and who is an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state
989 referee for the remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and
990 shall be eligible for appointment as a state referee during the remainder
991 of such judge's life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment
992 of a judge of the court of which such judge is a member, to whom a judge
993 before whom any juvenile matter is pending may, with the written
994 consent of the child concerned, either of such child's parents, or such
995 child's guardian or attorney, refer any juvenile matter pending,
996 provided such referee has been appointed a judge trial referee
997 specifically designated to hear juvenile cases pursuant to subsection (b)
998 of this section. The judge trial referee shall hear any matter so referred
999 and report the facts to the court for the district from which the matter
1000 was referred.

1001 (4) In addition to the judge trial referees who are appointed pursuant
1002 to subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection, the Chief Justice may
1003 appoint, from qualified members of the bar of the state, who are electors
1004 and residents of this state, as many state referees as the Chief Justice may
1005 from time to time deem advisable or necessary. No appointment of a
1006 member of the bar may be for a term of more than three years.
1007 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, state
1008 referees appointed by the Chief Justice from members of the bar shall
1009 receive such reasonable compensation and expenses as may be
1010 determined by the Chief Justice. The Superior Court may appoint a state
1011 referee pursuant to this subdivision to take such evidence as it directs in
1012 any civil, nonjury case including, but not limited to, appeals under
1013 section 8-8. Any such state referee shall report on such evidence to the
1014 court with any findings of fact. The report shall constitute a part of the
1015 proceeding upon which the determination of the court shall be made.

1016 (b) The Chief Justice may designate, from among the state referees,
1017 judge trial referees to whom criminal and civil cases and juvenile
1018 matters may be referred. Criminal cases and civil cases of an adversary
1019 nature shall be referred only to state referees who are designated as
1020 judge trial referees, and proceedings resulting from a demand for a trial
1021 de novo pursuant to subsection (e) of section 52-549z shall be referred
1022 only to judge trial referees who are specifically designated to hear such
1023 proceedings. On or before October first of each year, the Chief Court
1024 Administrator shall publish the list of the judge trial referees specifically
1025 designated to hear such proceedings. Juvenile matters shall be referred
1026 only to judge trial referees who are specifically designated to hear
1027 juvenile cases. No designation pursuant to this subsection may be for a
1028 term of more than one year.

1029 (c) Each hearing by a judge trial referee shall be held in a suitable
1030 room, to be provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, in
1031 a courthouse in the judicial district where the case is pending unless the
1032 parties or their attorneys stipulate in writing that the hearing may be
1033 held elsewhere.

1034 (d) Each judge trial referee may have the attendance of a judicial
1035 marshal at any hearing before such trial referee. The judicial marshal
1036 shall receive the same compensation provided for attendance at regular
1037 sessions of the court from which the case was referred and such
1038 compensation shall be taxed by the state referee in the same manner as
1039 similar costs are taxed by the judges of the court.

1040 (e) Each judge trial referee may compel the attendance of any witness
1041 summoned to appear before such trial referee at any hearing, in the
1042 same manner as the attendance of any witness may be compelled in the
1043 Superior Court, and may punish for any act of contempt committed in
1044 such trial referee's presence while engaged in the hearing in the same
1045 manner and to the same extent as judges of the Superior Court.

1046 (f) Each judge trial referee shall receive, for acting as a referee or as a
1047 single auditor or committee of any court or for performing duties

1048 assigned by the Chief Court Administrator with the approval of the
1049 Chief Justice, for each day the judge trial referee is so engaged, in
1050 addition to the retirement salary: (1) (A) on and after July 1, 2022, the
1051 sum of two hundred eighty-five dollars, (B) on and after July 1, 2023, the
1052 sum of two hundred ninety-four dollars, and (C) on and after July 1,
1053 2024, the sum of three hundred two dollars; and (2) expenses, including
1054 mileage. Such amounts shall be taxed by the court making the reference
1055 in the same manner as other court expenses.

1056 [(g) A judge trial referee may participate in an alternative dispute
1057 resolution program approved by STA-FED ADR, Inc. in any year
1058 commencing July first provided such referee performed the duties of a
1059 judge trial referee or a senior judge for at least seventy-five days during
1060 the preceding year, except that (1) for the year commencing July 1, 1993,
1061 a judge trial referee may participate in said alternative dispute
1062 resolution program without having performed the duties of a judge trial
1063 referee or senior judge for seventy-five days during the preceding year,
1064 and (2) a judge trial referee may participate in said alternative dispute
1065 resolution program from the date such referee assumes such status,
1066 through the completion of the year commencing July first following
1067 such date without having satisfied the seventy-five-day requirement.
1068 Any judge trial referee who participates in said alternative dispute
1069 resolution program pursuant to subsection (f) of section 51-50c without
1070 having satisfied the seventy-five-day requirement set forth in said
1071 subsection shall not be eligible to participate in said program pursuant
1072 to this subsection without having satisfied the seventy-five-day
1073 requirement set forth in this subsection.]

1074 Sec. 18. Section 54-1k of the general statutes is repealed and the
1075 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1076 (a) Upon the arrest of a person for a violation of subdivision (1) or (2)
1077 of subsection (a) of section 53-21, section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70c, 53a-
1078 71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a, or any attempt thereof, or section 53a-
1079 181c, 53a-181d, [or] 53a-181e [,] or 53a-181f, the court may issue a
1080 protective order pursuant to this section. Upon the arrest of a person for

1081 a violation of section 53a-182b or 53a-183, the court may issue a
1082 protective order pursuant to this section if it finds that such violation
1083 caused the victim to reasonably fear for his or her physical safety. Such
1084 order shall be an order of the court, and the clerk of the court shall cause
1085 (1) a copy of such order, or the information contained in such order, to
1086 be sent to the victim, and (2) a copy of such order, or the information
1087 contained in such order, to be sent by facsimile or other means not later
1088 than forty-eight hours after its issuance to the law enforcement agency
1089 or agencies for the town in which the victim resides, the town in which
1090 the victim is employed and the town in which the defendant resides. If
1091 the victim is enrolled in a public or private elementary or secondary
1092 school, including a technical education and career school, or an
1093 institution of higher education, as defined in section 10a-55, the clerk of
1094 the court shall, upon the request of the victim, send, by facsimile or other
1095 means, a copy of such order, or the information contained in such order,
1096 to such school or institution of higher education, the president of any
1097 institution of higher education at which the victim is enrolled and the
1098 special police force established pursuant to section 10a-156b, if any, at
1099 the institution of higher education at which the victim is enrolled, if the
1100 victim provides the clerk with the name and address of such school or
1101 institution of higher education.

1102 (b) A protective order issued under this section may include
1103 provisions necessary to protect the victim from threats, harassment,
1104 injury or intimidation by the defendant, including but not limited to, an
1105 order enjoining the defendant from (1) imposing any restraint upon the
1106 person or liberty of the victim, (2) threatening, harassing, assaulting,
1107 molesting or sexually assaulting the victim, or (3) entering the dwelling
1108 of the victim. A protective order issued under this section may include
1109 provisions necessary to protect any animal owned or kept by the victim
1110 including, but not limited to, an order enjoining the defendant from
1111 injuring or threatening to injure such animal. Such order shall be made
1112 a condition of the bail or release of the defendant and shall contain the
1113 following language: "In accordance with section 53a-223 of the
1114 Connecticut general statutes, any violation of this order constitutes

1115 criminal violation of a protective order which is punishable by a term of
1116 imprisonment of not more than ten years, a fine of not more than ten
1117 thousand dollars, or both. Additionally, in accordance with section 53a-
1118 107 of the Connecticut general statutes, entering or remaining in a
1119 building or any other premises in violation of this order constitutes
1120 criminal trespass in the first degree which is punishable by a term of
1121 imprisonment of not more than one year, a fine of not more than two
1122 thousand dollars, or both. Violation of this order also violates a
1123 condition of your bail or release and may result in raising the amount of
1124 bail or revoking release."

1125 (c) The information contained in and concerning the issuance of any
1126 protective order issued under this section shall be entered in the registry
1127 of protective orders pursuant to section 51-5c, as amended by this act.

1128 Sec. 19. Subsection (f) of section 54-63d of the general statutes is
1129 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
1130 *passage*):

1131 (f) The Court Support Services Division shall establish written
1132 procedures for the release of information contained in reports and files
1133 of the Court Support Services Division, such procedures to be approved
1134 by the Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's
1135 designee. Such procedures shall allow access to (1) nonidentifying
1136 information by qualified persons for purposes of research related to the
1137 administration of criminal justice; (2) all information provided to the
1138 Court Support Services Division by probation officers for the purposes
1139 of compiling presentence reports; [and] (3) all information provided to
1140 the Court Support Services Division concerning any person convicted
1141 of a crime and held in custody by the Department of Correction; and (4)
1142 information concerning any person to the Department of Children and
1143 Families, provided such person's conditions of release require
1144 cooperating with said department.

1145 Sec. 20. Subsection (b) of section 54-76l of the general statutes is
1146 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*

1147 *passage*):

1148 (b) The records of any such youth, or any part thereof, may be
1149 disclosed to and between individuals and agencies, and employees of
1150 such agencies, providing services directly to the youth, including law
1151 enforcement officials, state and federal prosecutorial officials, school
1152 officials in accordance with section 10-233h, court officials, the Division
1153 of Criminal Justice, the Court Support Services Division, a victim
1154 advocate under section 54-220 for a victim of a crime committed by the
1155 youth and the Department of Children and Families. [if the child is
1156 under the oversight of the department's administrative unit pursuant to
1157 section 17a-3b, provided such disclosure shall be limited to information
1158 that identifies the child as residing in a justice facility or incarcerated.]
1159 Such records shall also be available to the attorney representing the
1160 youth, in any proceedings in which such records are relevant, to the
1161 parents or guardian of such youth, until such time as the youth reaches
1162 the age of majority or is emancipated, and to the youth upon his or her
1163 emancipation or attainment of the age of majority, provided proof of the
1164 identity of such youth is submitted in accordance with guidelines
1165 prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator. Such records shall also be
1166 available to members and employees of the Board of Pardons and
1167 Paroles and employees of the Department of Correction who, in the
1168 performance of their duties, require access to such records, provided the
1169 subject of the record has been adjudged a youthful offender and
1170 sentenced to a term of imprisonment or been convicted of a crime in the
1171 regular criminal docket of the Superior Court, and such records are
1172 relevant to the performance of a risk and needs assessment of such
1173 person while such person is incarcerated, the determination of such
1174 person's suitability for release from incarceration or for a pardon, or the
1175 determination of the supervision and treatment needs of such person
1176 while on parole or other supervised release. Such records shall also be
1177 available to law enforcement officials and prosecutorial officials
1178 conducting legitimate criminal investigations or seeking an order to
1179 detain pursuant to section 46b-133. Such records shall also be available
1180 to members and employees of the Judicial Review Council who, in the

1181 performance of their duties, require access to such records. Records
1182 disclosed pursuant to this subsection shall not be further disclosed.

1183 Sec. 21. Subsection (b) of section 54-203 of the general statutes is
1184 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1185 *1, 2025*):

1186 (b) The Office of Victim Services shall have the following powers and
1187 duties:

1188 (1) To direct each hospital, whether public or private, each university
1189 or college health services center, whether public or private, and each
1190 community health center, as defined in section 19a-490a, to prominently
1191 display posters in a conspicuous location giving notice of the availability
1192 of compensation and assistance to victims of crime or their dependents
1193 pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218, inclusive, and to direct every law
1194 enforcement agency of the state to inform victims of crime or their
1195 dependents of their rights pursuant to sections 54-201 to 54-218,
1196 inclusive;

1197 (2) To obtain from the office of the state's attorney, state police, local
1198 police departments or any law enforcement agency such investigation
1199 and data as will enable the Office of Victim Services to determine if in
1200 fact the applicant was a victim of a crime or attempted crime and the
1201 extent, if any, to which the victim or claimant was responsible for his
1202 own injury, including, but not limited to, a request for information form
1203 promulgated by the Office of Victim Services;

1204 (3) To request from the Department of Correction, other units of the
1205 Judicial [Department] Branch and the Board of Pardons and Paroles
1206 such information as will enable the Office of Victim Services to
1207 determine if in fact a person who has requested notification pursuant to
1208 section 54-228 was a victim of a crime;

1209 (4) To take or cause to be taken affidavits or depositions within or
1210 without the state;

1211 (5) To apply for, receive, allocate, disburse and account for grants of
1212 funds made available by the United States, by the state, foundations,
1213 corporations and other businesses, agencies or individuals to implement
1214 a program for victim services which shall assist witnesses and victims
1215 of crimes as the Office of Victim Services deems appropriate within the
1216 resources available and to coordinate services to victims by state and
1217 community-based agencies, with priority given to victims of violent
1218 crimes, by (A) assigning such victim advocates as are necessary to
1219 provide assistance; (B) administering victim service programs; and (C)
1220 awarding grants or purchase of service contracts to private nonprofit
1221 organizations or local units of government for the direct delivery of
1222 services, except that the provision of training and technical assistance of
1223 victim service providers and the development and implementation of
1224 public education campaigns may be provided by private nonprofit or
1225 for-profit organizations or local units of government. Such grants and
1226 contracts shall be the predominant method by which the Office of
1227 Victim Services shall develop, implement and operate direct service
1228 programs and provide training and technical assistance to victim service
1229 providers;

1230 (6) To provide each person who applies for compensation pursuant
1231 to section 54-204, within ten days of the date of receipt of such
1232 application, with a written list of rights of victims of crime involving
1233 personal injury and the programs available in this state to assist such
1234 victims. The Office of Victim Services, the state or any agent, employee
1235 or officer thereof shall not be liable for the failure to supply such list or
1236 any alleged inadequacies of such list. Such list shall include, but not be
1237 limited to:

1238 (A) Subject to the provisions of sections 18-81e and 51-286e, the victim
1239 shall have the right to be informed concerning the status of his or her
1240 case and to be informed of the release from custody of the defendant;

1241 (B) Subject to the provisions of section 54-91c, the victim shall have
1242 the right to present a statement of his or her losses, injuries and wishes
1243 to the prosecutor and the court prior to the acceptance by the court of a

1244 plea of guilty or nolo contendere made pursuant to a plea agreement
1245 with the state; [wherein the defendant pleads to a lesser offense than the
1246 offense with which the defendant was originally charged;]

1247 (C) Subject to the provisions of section 54-91c, prior to the imposition
1248 of sentence upon the defendant, the victim shall have the right to submit
1249 a statement to the prosecutor as to the extent of any injuries, financial
1250 losses and loss of earnings directly resulting from the crime. Upon
1251 receipt of the statement, the prosecutor shall file the statement with the
1252 sentencing court and the statement shall be made a part of the record
1253 and considered by the court at the sentencing hearing;

1254 (D) Subject to the provisions of section 54-126a, the victim shall have
1255 the right to appear before a panel of the Board of Pardons and Paroles
1256 and make a statement as to whether the defendant should be released
1257 on parole and any terms or conditions to be imposed upon any such
1258 release;

1259 (E) Subject to the provisions of section 54-36a, the victim shall have
1260 the right to have any property the victim owns which was seized by
1261 police in connection with an arrest to be returned;

1262 (F) Subject to the provisions of sections 54-56e and 54-142c, the victim
1263 shall have the right to be notified of the application by the defendant for
1264 the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation and to obtain from
1265 the court information as to whether the criminal prosecution in the case
1266 has been dismissed;

1267 (G) Subject to the provisions of section 54-85b, the victim cannot be
1268 fired, harassed or otherwise retaliated against by an employer for
1269 appearing under a subpoena as a witness in any criminal prosecution;

1270 (H) Subject to the provisions of section 54-86g, the parent or legal
1271 guardian of a child twelve years of age or younger who is a victim of
1272 child abuse or sexual assault may request special procedural
1273 considerations to be taken during the testimony of the child;

1274 (I) Subject to the provisions of section 46b-15, the victim of assault by
1275 a spouse or former spouse, family or household member has the right
1276 to request the arrest of the offender, request a protective order and apply
1277 for a restraining order;

1278 (J) Subject to the provisions of sections 52-146k, 54-86e and 54-86f, the
1279 victim of sexual assault or domestic violence can expect certain records
1280 to remain confidential; and

1281 (K) Subject to the provisions of section 53a-32, the victim and any
1282 victim advocate assigned to assist the victim may receive notification
1283 from a probation officer whenever the officer has notified a police officer
1284 that the probation officer has probable cause to believe that the offender
1285 has violated a condition of such offender's probation;

1286 (7) Within available appropriations, to maintain a victim's assistance
1287 center which shall (A) make available to victims information regarding
1288 victim's rights and available services, (B) maintain a victims' notification
1289 system pursuant to sections 54-227 to 54-230a, inclusive, and 54-235, and
1290 (C) maintain a toll-free number for access to information regarding
1291 victims' rights and available services;

1292 (8) To provide a telephone helpline that shall provide information on
1293 referrals for various services for victims of crime and their families;

1294 (9) To provide staff services to a state advisory council. The council
1295 shall consist of not more than twenty members to be appointed by the
1296 Chief Justice and shall include the Chief Victim Compensation
1297 Commissioner and members who represent victim populations,
1298 including but not limited to, homicide survivors, family violence
1299 victims, sexual assault victims, victims of gun violence, victims of drunk
1300 drivers, and assault and robbery victims, and members who represent
1301 the judicial branch and executive branch agencies involved with victims
1302 of crime. The members shall serve for terms of four years. Any vacancy
1303 in the membership shall be filled by the appointing authority for the
1304 balance of the unexpired term. The members shall receive no
1305 compensation for their services. The council shall meet at least four

1306 times a year. The council shall recommend to the Office of Victim
1307 Services program, legislative or other matters which would improve
1308 services to victims of crime and develop and coordinate needs
1309 assessments for both court-based and community-based victim services.
1310 The Chief Justice shall appoint two members to serve as cochairpersons.
1311 Not later than December fifteenth of each year, the council shall report
1312 the results of its findings and activities to the Chief Court Administrator;

1313 (10) To utilize such voluntary and uncompensated services of private
1314 individuals, agencies and organizations as may from time to time be
1315 offered and needed;

1316 (11) To recommend policies and make recommendations to agencies
1317 and officers of the state and local subdivisions of government relative to
1318 victims of crime;

1319 (12) To provide support and assistance to state-wide victim services
1320 coalitions and groups;

1321 (13) To provide a training program for judges, prosecutors, police,
1322 probation and parole personnel, bail commissioners, intake, assessment
1323 and referral specialists, officers from the Department of Correction and
1324 judicial marshals to inform them of victims' rights and available
1325 services;

1326 (14) To (A) maintain, within available appropriations, a sexual assault
1327 forensic examiners program that will train and make available sexual
1328 assault forensic examiners to adolescent and adult victims of sexual
1329 assault who are patients at participating health care facilities. In order
1330 to maintain such program, the Office of Victim Services may apply for,
1331 receive, allocate, disburse and account for grants of funds made
1332 available by the United States, the state, foundations, corporations and
1333 other businesses, agencies or individuals; or (B) establish, within
1334 available appropriations, a training program for health care
1335 professionals on the care of and collection of evidence from adolescent
1336 and adult victims of sexual assault;

1337 (15) To provide victims of crime and the general public with
1338 information detailing the process by which a victim may register to
1339 receive notices of hearings of the Board of Pardons and Paroles; and

1340 (16) To submit to the joint standing committee of the General
1341 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, in
1342 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on or before January 15,
1343 2000, and biennially thereafter a report of its activities under sections 54-
1344 201 to 54-235, inclusive.

1345 Sec. 22. Section 54-230 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1346 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1347 (a) Upon receipt of notice from [an inmate] a person who is
1348 incarcerated pursuant to section 54-227, the Office of Victim Services
1349 shall notify by first class mail or electronic mail, based on the election of
1350 the registrant, all persons who have requested to be notified pursuant
1351 to subsection (a) of section 54-228 and section 54-229 whenever such
1352 [inmate] person who is incarcerated makes application for release or
1353 sentence reduction or review. Such notice shall be in writing and notify
1354 each person of the nature of the release or sentence reduction or review
1355 being applied for, the address and telephone number of the board or
1356 agency to which the application by the [inmate] person who is
1357 incarcerated was made, and the date and place of the hearing or session,
1358 if any, scheduled on the application.

1359 (b) Upon receipt of notice from a person pursuant to subsection (b) of
1360 section 54-227, the Office of Victim Services shall notify by first class
1361 mail or electronic mail, based on the election of the registrant, all persons
1362 who have requested to be notified pursuant to subsection (b) of section
1363 54-228 whenever such person files an application with the court to be
1364 exempted from the registration requirements of section 54-251 pursuant
1365 to subsections (b) or (c) of said section or files a petition with the court
1366 pursuant to section 54-255 for an order restricting the dissemination of
1367 the registration information, or removing such restriction. Such notice
1368 shall be in writing and notify each person of the nature of the exemption

1369 or of the restriction or removal of the restriction being applied for, the
1370 address and telephone number of the court to which the application or
1371 petition by the person was made, and the date and place of the hearing
1372 or session, if any, scheduled on the application or petition.

1373 (c) Upon compliance with the notification requirements of this
1374 section, the Office of Victim Services shall notify, on a form prescribed
1375 by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, the board, agency or
1376 court to which the application or petition was made of such compliance.

1377 (d) Upon receipt of notice from the Department of Correction
1378 pursuant to section 54-231, the Office of Victim Services shall notify by
1379 first class mail or electronic mail, based on the election of the registrant,
1380 all victims who have requested to be notified pursuant to section 54-228
1381 whenever such [inmate] person who is incarcerated is scheduled to be
1382 released from a correctional institution. Such notice shall be in writing
1383 and notify each victim of the date of [such inmate's release] release of
1384 such person who is incarcerated. The victim shall notify the Office of
1385 Victim Services of his or her current mailing address, electronic mail
1386 address, if electronic mail is requested by the registrant, and telephone
1387 number, which shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed by
1388 the Office of Victim Services. Nothing in this section shall be construed
1389 to prohibit the Office of Victim Services, the Board of Pardons and
1390 Paroles and the Victim Services Unit within the Department of
1391 Correction from communicating with each other for the purpose of
1392 facilitating notification to a victim and disclosing to each other the name,
1393 mailing address and telephone number of the victim, provided such
1394 information shall not be further disclosed.

1395 Sec. 23. Section 51-85a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1396 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1397 (a) As used in this section:

1398 (1) "Communication technology" means an electronic device or
1399 process that:

1400 (A) Allows a commissioner of the Superior Court and a remotely
1401 located individual to communicate with each other simultaneously by
1402 sight and sound; and

1403 (B) When necessary and consistent with other applicable law,
1404 facilitates communication between a commissioner of the Superior
1405 Court and a remotely located individual who has a vision, hearing or
1406 speech impairment.

1407 (2) "Identity proofing" means a process or service by which a third
1408 person provides a commissioner of the Superior Court with a means to
1409 verify the identity of a remotely located individual by a review of
1410 personal information from public or private data sources.

1411 (3) "Outside the United States" means a location outside the
1412 geographic boundaries of the United States, Puerto Rico, the United
1413 States Virgin Islands and any territory, insular possession or other
1414 location subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

1415 (4) "Remotely located individual" means an individual who is not in
1416 the physical presence of the commissioner of the Superior Court who
1417 takes an acknowledgment under subsection (b) of this section.

1418 (b) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, a [document]
1419 record may be acknowledged by an individual who is not in the physical
1420 presence of a commissioner of the Superior Court at the time of the
1421 acknowledgment if the following requirements are met:

1422 (1) The individual and the commissioner of the Superior Court can
1423 communicate simultaneously, in real time, by sight and sound using
1424 communication technology; and

1425 (2) When performing a remote acknowledgment pursuant to the
1426 provisions of this section, the commissioner of the Superior Court
1427 reasonably identifies the individual at the time of the acknowledgment
1428 by one or more of the following methods:

1429 (A) Personal knowledge of the identity of the individual;

1430 (B) The individual presents a government-issued identification
1431 document or record that has not expired and includes the individual's
1432 photograph, name and signature. An acceptable form of government-
1433 issued identification document or record includes, but is not limited to,
1434 a driver's license, government-issued identification card or passport;

1435 (C) Not less than two different types of identity proofing processes or
1436 services by which a third person provides a means to verify the identity
1437 of the individual through a review of public or private data sources; or

1438 (D) Oath or affirmation by a credible witness who:

1439 (i) Is in the physical presence of either the commissioner of the
1440 Superior Court or the individual; or

1441 (ii) Is able to communicate in real time with the commissioner of the
1442 Superior Court and the individual by sight and sound through an
1443 electronic device or process at the time of the acknowledgment, if the
1444 credible witness has personal knowledge of the identity of the
1445 individual and has been reasonably identified by the commissioner of
1446 the Superior Court by a method provided in this section.

1447 (c) When an individual who is physically located outside of the state
1448 of Connecticut or outside the United States seeks a remote
1449 acknowledgment pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the record
1450 being acknowledged shall:

1451 (1) Be intended for filing or presentation in a matter before a court,
1452 governmental entity, public official or other entity subject to the
1453 jurisdiction of the state of Connecticut; or

1454 (2) Otherwise not be prohibited by law of the state of Connecticut to
1455 be acknowledged outside the state.

1456 (d) Once the record acknowledged pursuant to subsection (b) of this
1457 section is signed by the individual in accordance with the procedures
1458 set forth in this section, the individual shall mail or otherwise cause to
1459 be delivered the signed original copy of the record to the commissioner

1460 of the Superior Court.

1461 (e) The date and time of an acknowledgment conducted pursuant to
1462 subsection (b) of this section shall be the date and time when the
1463 commissioner of the Superior Court witnessed the signature being
1464 performed by means of communication technology.

1465 (f) Nothing in this section shall affect the authority of a commissioner
1466 of the Superior Court to refuse to take an acknowledgment or require a
1467 commissioner of the Superior Court to take an acknowledgment:

1468 (1) With respect to an electronic record;

1469 (2) For an individual not in the physical presence of the commissioner
1470 of the Superior Court; or

1471 (3) Using a technology that the commissioner of the Superior Court
1472 has not selected.

1473 (g) No record shall be acknowledged remotely pursuant to subsection
1474 (b) of this section in (1) the making and execution of a will, codicil, trust
1475 or trust instrument, (2) the execution of health care instructions
1476 pursuant to section 19a-575a, (3) the execution of a designation of a
1477 standby guardian pursuant to section 45a-624, (4) the execution of a
1478 designation of a person for decision-making and certain rights and
1479 obligations pursuant to section 1-56r, (5) the execution of a living will,
1480 as defined in section 19a-570, (6) the execution of a power of attorney,
1481 as defined in section 1-350a, (7) the execution of a self-proving affidavit
1482 for an appointment of a health care representative or for a living will
1483 under sections 1-56r and 19a-578, (8) the execution of a mutual
1484 distribution agreement under section 45a-433, (9) the execution of an
1485 agreement as to the division of an estate under section 45a-434, (10) the
1486 execution of a disclaimer under section 45a-579 or 45a-583, or [(10)] (11)
1487 a real estate closing, as defined in section 51-88a. The performance of
1488 any such acknowledgment in connection with any of the acts described
1489 in this subsection shall be ineffective for any purpose and shall
1490 constitute a violation of section 51-88.

1491 Sec. 24. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
1492 conduct a review of the habeas corpus procedures utilized by the federal
1493 government and other states and, after conducting such review, make
1494 recommendations to the General Assembly, that include, but are not
1495 limited to, best practices that could be implemented in this state to: (1)
1496 Ensure a timely review and adjudication of habeas corpus claims; (2)
1497 establish standards for the presentation of repeated habeas corpus
1498 claims associated with the same incident; (3) prioritize credible habeas
1499 corpus claims and limit the filing of repetitive or meritless habeas
1500 corpus claims; and (4) provide balance between providing public
1501 counsel in habeas corpus claims and the cost of litigating repetitive or
1502 meritless claims.

1503 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members: (1) One
1504 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (2) one
1505 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) one appointed
1506 by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (4) one
1507 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (5) one appointed by the
1508 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (6) one appointed by
1509 the minority leader of the Senate; (7) one appointed by the House
1510 chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
1511 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary; (8) one appointed
1512 by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing committee of the General
1513 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary; (9) one
1514 appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing
1515 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1516 relating to the judiciary; (10) one appointed by the Senate ranking
1517 member of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
1518 having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary; (11) the Chief
1519 Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee; (12)
1520 the Chief Public Defender, or the Chief Public Defender's designee; and
1521 (13) the Chief State's Attorney, or the Chief State's Attorney's designee.

1522 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
1523 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
1524 filled by the appointing authority.

1525 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
1526 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
1527 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
1528 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
1529 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

1530 (e) Judicial Branch employees as designated by the Chief Court
1531 Administrator shall serve as administrative staff to the task force.

1532 (f) Not later than January 1, 2027, the task force shall submit a report
1533 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
1534 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
1535 judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
1536 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
1537 submits such report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

1538 Sec. 25. Section 36a-649 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1539 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

1540 As used in this section and sections 36a-650 and 36a-651:

1541 (1) "Claim" means a right to receive payment of a credit card debt;

1542 (2) "Claimant" means an entity that has, or purports to have, a claim
1543 against a debtor arising from coerced debt or allegedly coerced debt,
1544 and includes a consumer collection agency, as defined in section 36a-
1545 800, to collect said debt, or such entity's successor or assignee;

1546 (3) "Coerced debt" means any debt incurred in the name of a debtor
1547 who is a victim of domestic violence, as defined in subsection (b) of
1548 section 46b-1, when such debt was incurred in response to any duress,
1549 intimidation, threat of force, force or undue influence used to
1550 specifically coerce the debtor into incurring such debt;

1551 (4) "Collection activities" means any activity of a claimant to collect
1552 or to attempt to collect a debt owed, due or asserted to be owed or due,
1553 including, but not limited to, commencing or proceeding with an action
1554 in a court of competent jurisdiction;

1555 (5) "Credit rating agency" has the same meaning as provided in
1556 section 36a-695;

1557 (6) "Debt" means an unsecured credit card debt, or any portion of an
1558 unsecured credit card debt, incurred on or after January 1, 2025, for
1559 personal, family or household use that [(A) was not] was not (A) subject
1560 to a final judgment in an action for dissolution of marriage or collection
1561 matter which occurred prior to the time when a debtor requests that the
1562 claimant waive such debt; or (B) [was] incurred more than ten years
1563 prior to the date of the request;

1564 (7) "Debtor" means an individual against whom a claimant asserts a
1565 claim arising from coerced debt or allegedly coerced debt;

1566 (8) "Immediate family member" has the same meaning as provided in
1567 section 36a-485;

1568 (9) "Negative information" has the same meaning as provided in 15
1569 USC 1681s-2, as amended from time to time;

1570 (10) "Qualified third-party professional" means a domestic violence
1571 counselor or sexual assault counselor, as those terms are defined in
1572 section 52-146k, a psychiatrist licensed under chapter 370, a
1573 psychologist licensed under chapter 383, a clinical social worker
1574 licensed under chapter 383b, a marital and family therapist licensed
1575 under chapter 383a and a professional counselor licensed under chapter
1576 383c; and

1577 (11) "Requests that the claimant waive such debt" means a request
1578 that a claimant waive, forgive, excuse, write off or not collect a debt or
1579 portion of a debt.

1580 Sec. 26. Section 52-350f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1581 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1582 (a) A money judgment may be enforced against any property of the
1583 judgment debtor unless the property is exempt from application to the
1584 satisfaction of the judgment under section 52-352a, 52-352b, 52-352d or

1585 52-361a or any other provision of the general statutes or federal law. The
1586 money judgment may be enforced, by execution or by foreclosure of a
1587 real property lien, to the amount of the money judgment with (1) all
1588 statutory costs and fees as provided by the general statutes, (2) interest
1589 as provided by chapter 673 on the money judgment and on the costs
1590 incurred in obtaining the judgment, and (3) any attorney's fees allowed
1591 pursuant to section 52-400c.

1592 (b) In an action to enforce a money judgment by foreclosure of a real
1593 property lien, the amount of the judgment lien to attach to the property
1594 shall be calculated by taking the fair market value of the property, less
1595 any priority liens and the amount of any applicable exempt property
1596 under sections 52-352b and 52-352d. The Chief Court Administrator
1597 shall ensure that any form prescribed by the Judicial Branch relating to
1598 an action to enforce a money judgment by foreclosure of a real property
1599 lien, including, but not limited to, the foreclosure worksheet, includes
1600 the property that is not subject to debt collection under sections 52-352b
1601 and 52-352d.

1602 Sec. 27. Subsection (f) of section 53a-29 of the general statutes is
1603 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1604 *1, 2025*):

1605 (f) The period of probation [,] (1) unless terminated sooner as
1606 provided in section 53a-32, shall be not less than ten years or more than
1607 thirty-five years for conviction of a violation of section 53a-70b of the
1608 general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or
1609 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-70, 53a-
1610 70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-90a or subdivision (2), (3) or (4) of
1611 subsection (a) of section 53a-189a, or section 53a-196b, 53a-196c, 53a-
1612 196d, 53a-196e or 53a-196f, and (2) shall be five years for a violation of
1613 section 53-247.

1614 Sec. 28. Subsection (c) of section 53a-189a of the general statutes is
1615 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1616 *1, 2025*):

1617 (c) Voyeurism is (1) a class D felony for a first offense, except as
1618 provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, (2) a class C felony for any
1619 subsequent offense, and (3) a class C felony for a first offense when (A)
1620 such person has been previously convicted of an offense enumerated in
1621 subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of section 53a-29, as amended by this
1622 act, or (B) the intended subject of the offense is a person under sixteen
1623 years of age.

1624 Sec. 29. Section 52-278f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1625 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1626 In an action upon a commercial transaction, as defined in section 52-
1627 278a, wherein the defendant has waived his right to a notice and hearing
1628 under sections 52-278a to 52-278g, inclusive, the attorney for the plaintiff
1629 shall issue the writ for a prejudgment remedy without securing a court
1630 order provided that (1) the complaint shall set forth a copy of the waiver;
1631 (2) the plaintiff shall file an affidavit sworn to by the plaintiff or any
1632 competent affiant setting forth a statement of facts sufficient to show
1633 that there is probable cause that a judgment in the amount of the
1634 prejudgment remedy sought, or in an amount greater than the amount
1635 of the prejudgment remedy sought, taking into account any known
1636 defenses, counterclaims or set-offs, will be rendered in the matter in
1637 favor of the plaintiff; [and] (3) the plaintiff shall include in the process
1638 served on the defendant a notice satisfying the requirements of
1639 subsections (b) and (c) of section 52-278e; and (4) service of process of
1640 such complaint be returned to the court (A) within twelve days,
1641 inclusive, after the earlier of (i) service of process upon the defendant
1642 preventing the dissipation of property, or (ii) service of process upon
1643 any third person holding property of the defendant, and (B) at least six
1644 days before the return date.

1645 Sec. 30. Section 52-46a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1646 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1647 Process in civil actions returnable to the Supreme Court shall be
1648 returned to its clerk at least twenty days before the return day and, if

1649 returnable to the Superior Court, except process in summary process
1650 actions, the commencement of any civil action containing the issuance
1651 of a prejudgment remedy when the defendant in a commercial
1652 transaction has waived notice and hearing as provided under chapter
1653 903a and petitions for parentage and support, to the clerk of such court
1654 at least six days before the return day.

1655 Sec. 31. Subsection (e) of section 4b-51 of the general statutes is
1656 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1657 *2025*):

1658 (e) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
1659 Commissioner of Administrative Services may select consultants to be
1660 on a list established for the purpose of providing any consultant
1661 services. Such list shall be established as provided in sections 4b-56 and
1662 4b-57, as amended by this act. The commissioner may enter into a
1663 contract with any consultant on such list to perform a range of
1664 consultant services or to perform a range of tasks pursuant to a task
1665 letter detailing services to be performed under such contract.

1666 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
1667 Commissioner of Administrative Services may (A) compile a list of
1668 architects, professional engineers and construction administrators for
1669 the limited purpose of providing consultant services for a particular
1670 program involving various projects for the construction of new
1671 buildings or renovations to existing buildings where such buildings are
1672 under the operation and control of either the Military Department, [or]
1673 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or the Judicial
1674 Branch, and (B) enter into a contract with any architect, professional
1675 engineer or construction administrator on such list for such limited
1676 purpose, except that (i) the Adjutant General may perform the functions
1677 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision for any such
1678 building under the operation and control of the Military Department,
1679 and (ii) the Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court
1680 Administrator's designee, may perform the functions described in
1681 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision for any such building

1682 under the operation and control of the Judicial Branch when the cost of
1683 such consultant services is estimated to not exceed three hundred
1684 thousand dollars.

1685 (3) As used in this subsection, "consultant" means "consultant" as
1686 defined in section 4b-55, "consultant services" means "consultant
1687 services" as defined in section 4b-55, and "program" means multiple
1688 projects involving the planning, design, construction, repair,
1689 improvement or expansion of specified buildings, facilities or site
1690 improvements, wherein the work (A) will be of a repetitive nature, (B)
1691 will share a common funding source that imposes particular
1692 requirements, or (C) would be significantly facilitated if completed by
1693 the same design professional or construction administrator.

1694 Sec. 32. Subsection (c) of section 4b-57 of the general statutes is
1695 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1696 *2025*):

1697 (c) In the case of consultants selected under subsection (e) of section
1698 4b-51, as amended by this act, except consultants selected under
1699 subparagraph (B)(ii) of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 4b-51,
1700 as amended by this act, the responses received shall be considered by
1701 the selection panel. The panel shall select, from among those persons
1702 responding, a list of those persons most qualified to perform the
1703 consultant services. Knowledge of the state building and fire code and
1704 whether the consultant is a micro business, as defined in subsection (c)
1705 of section 4a-59, shall be considered in determining a consultant's
1706 qualifications.

1707 Sec. 33. Subsection (a) of section 4b-58 of the general statutes is
1708 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
1709 *2025*):

1710 (a) (1) Except in the case of a project, a priority higher education
1711 facility project, a project, as defined in subdivision (16) of section 10a-
1712 109c, undertaken by The University of Connecticut, a community court
1713 project, a correctional facility project, a juvenile residential center

1714 project, a project undertaken by the Judicial Branch in which the cost of
1715 the consultant services is estimated not to exceed three hundred
1716 thousand dollars and the downtown Hartford higher education center
1717 project, the commissioner shall negotiate a contract for consultant
1718 services with the firm most qualified, in the commissioner's judgment,
1719 at compensation which the commissioner determines is both fair and
1720 reasonable to the state. (2) In the case of a project, the commissioner shall
1721 negotiate a contract for such services with the most qualified firm from
1722 among the list of firms submitted by the panel at compensation which
1723 the commissioner determines in writing to be fair and reasonable to the
1724 state. If the commissioner is unable to conclude a contract with any of
1725 the firms recommended by the panel, the commissioner shall, after
1726 issuing written findings of fact documenting the reasons for such
1727 inability, negotiate with those firms which the commissioner determines
1728 to be most qualified, at fair and reasonable compensation, to render the
1729 particular consultant services under consideration. (3) Whenever
1730 consultant services are required for a priority higher education facility
1731 project, a project in which the cost of such consultant services is
1732 estimated to exceed three hundred thousand dollars involving the
1733 construction, repair or alteration of a building or premises under the
1734 supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or property
1735 where the Judicial Department is the primary occupant, a community
1736 court project, a correctional facility project, a juvenile residential center
1737 project, or the downtown Hartford higher education center project, the
1738 commissioner shall select and interview at least three consultants or
1739 firms and shall negotiate a contract for consultant services with the firm
1740 most qualified, in the commissioner's judgment, at compensation which
1741 the commissioner determines is both fair and reasonable to the state.
1742 Except for the downtown Hartford higher education center project, the
1743 commissioner shall notify the State Properties Review Board of the
1744 commissioner's action not later than five business days after such action
1745 for its approval or disapproval in accordance with subsection (i) of
1746 section 4b-23, except that if, not later than fifteen days after such notice,
1747 a decision has not been made, the board shall be deemed to have
1748 approved such contract.

1749 Sec. 34. Section 51-9 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1750 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

1751 Under the supervision and direction of the Chief Court
1752 Administrator, the staff of the Office of Chief Court Administrator shall:

1753 (1) Audit all bills to be paid from state appropriations, except bills of
1754 the Division of Criminal Justice, for the expenses of the Judicial
1755 Department and its constituent courts prior to taxation or final approval
1756 thereof by any judge;

1757 (2) Maintain adequate accounting and budgetary records for all
1758 appropriations by the state for the maintenance of the Judicial
1759 Department, except the Division of Criminal Justice, and all other
1760 appropriations assigned by the legislature or state budgetary control
1761 offices for administration by the Judicial Department, except the
1762 Division of Criminal Justice;

1763 (3) Prepare and submit to the appropriate budget agency of the state
1764 government estimates of appropriations necessary for the maintenance
1765 and operation of the Judicial Department, including therein estimates
1766 submitted for the Division of Criminal Justice as provided in section 51-
1767 279, and make recommendations in respect to those appropriations;

1768 (4) Act as secretary of any meetings, conferences or assemblies of
1769 judges, or committees thereof, of the Judicial Department and of its
1770 constituent courts;

1771 (5) Supervise all purchases of commodities and services for the
1772 Judicial Department, except for the Division of Criminal Justice, to be
1773 charged to state appropriations, and issue all orders therefor for the
1774 department, excluding orders for the Division of Criminal Justice;

1775 (6) Examine the administrative methods and systems employed in
1776 the Judicial Department and its constituent courts and agencies, except
1777 the Division of Criminal Justice, and develop and implement programs
1778 for the improvement thereof and for securing uniform administration

1779 and procedures;

1780 (7) Examine the state of the dockets of the courts of the Judicial
1781 Department to ascertain the need for assistance by any court and to
1782 implement programs for the fair and prompt disposition of cases
1783 therein;

1784 (8) Collect and compile statistical and other data concerning the
1785 business transacted by the Judicial Department and its constituent
1786 courts and the expenditure of public moneys for the maintenance and
1787 operation of the judicial system;

1788 (9) Assist in the preparation of the assignments of the judges of the
1789 Superior Court and attend to the printing and distribution for the
1790 Superior Court of an annual directory containing relevant information
1791 pertaining to the operation of the court;

1792 (10) Serve as payroll officer for the Judicial Department, excluding
1793 the Division of Criminal Justice, and for the Supreme Court, Appellate
1794 Court and Superior Court;

1795 (11) Supervise the assignment of court reporters of the Superior
1796 Court;

1797 (12) Conduct research and planning activities for the Judicial
1798 Department and its constituent courts and offices as deemed feasible by,
1799 or in the discretion of, the Chief Justice or the Chief Court
1800 Administrator;

1801 (13) Develop education programs for the judges and other personnel
1802 of the Judicial Department;

1803 (14) Develop personnel standards, policies and procedures, and make
1804 recommendations concerning all personnel matters, including requests
1805 for salary increases or for additional positions, for consideration by the
1806 Supreme Court or the appropriate appointing authorities;

1807 (15) Report periodically to the Chief Court Administrator concerning

- 1808 all matters which have been entrusted to such staff;
- 1809 (16) Attend to matters assigned to such staff by the Chief Justice, or
 1810 the Chief Court Administrator or by statute;
- 1811 (17) Design, implement and maintain, as deemed feasible by the
 1812 Chief Court Administrator, computerized automatic data processing
 1813 systems for use in the Supreme Court, Appellate Court and Superior
 1814 Court or divisions of the Superior Court;
- 1815 (18) Supervise administrative methods employed in clerks' offices
 1816 and in the various offices of the Supreme Court, Appellate Court and
 1817 Superior Court; and
- 1818 (19) Supervise the care and control of all property where the Judicial
 1819 Department is the primary occupant, which supervision shall include
 1820 planning, execution of contracts, [except for] including contracts for
 1821 consultant services, [which shall be] except when such contracts are
 1822 estimated to exceed three hundred thousand dollars and are subject to
 1823 section 4b-58, as amended by this act, oversight and supervision of work
 1824 involving the construction, repair or alteration of a building or premises
 1825 under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator,
 1826 when construction contracts do not exceed [one million two hundred
 1827 fifty thousand] three million dollars. For the purposes of this
 1828 subdivision, "Judicial Department" does not include the courts of
 1829 probate, the Division of Criminal Justice and the Public Defender
 1830 Services Commission, except where they share facilities in state-
 1831 maintained courts.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	from passage	17a-28(g)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2025	29-32b(a)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2025	42a-9-518(f)
Sec. 5	from passage	46b-3(a)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2025	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>	54-761(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
Sec. 31	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4b-51(e)
Sec. 32	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4b-57(c)
Sec. 33	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	4b-58(a)
Sec. 34	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	51-9

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 - Potential Cost	up to 164,393	up to 316,785
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	up to 94,177	up to 136,104
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

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 potential 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 potential cost of up to \$94,177 in FY 26 and up to \$136,104 in FY 27 to the Office

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.

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.

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 is authorized, 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.

House "A" eliminates or modifies costs identified in the underlying bill by 1) altering the language in section 1 to authorize rather than require OIP to perform certain duties, 2) striking section 24 and replacing with language that creates a taskforce on habeas corpus procedures, and 3) making various technical, clarifying, and procedural changes, resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the discretion of the Judicial Department to perform certain duties, and the 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 (as amended by House "A")*

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

SUMMARY

§ 1 — OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY

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

§§ 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

§ 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

§ 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

§ 5 — DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Makes a minor conforming change for consistency with other statutory 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

§§ 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

§ 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

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

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

§ 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 — TASK FORCE TO REVIEW HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS

Establishes a 13-member task force to review the habeas corpus procedures used by the federal government and other states; requires it to report findings and recommendations to the Judiciary Committee by January 15, 2027

§ 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

§§ 31-33 — CONSULTANT SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR JUDICIAL BRANCH CAPITAL PROJECTS

Allows the chief court administrator to contract for consultant services for certain capital projects if the estimated cost for the services is \$300,000 or less

§ 34 — CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES

Increases, from \$1.25 million to \$3million, the cap on construction contracts the chief court administrator may plan, execute, oversee, and supervise

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.

*House Amendment "A" (1) modifies the Office of Information Privacy (OIP) that the underlying bill creates, such as authorizing, rather than requiring, the office to take certain steps and clarifying that its provisions do not apply to certain Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) records; (2) modifies the court venues for certain towns for varying civil processes; (3) establishes a 13-member task force to review habeas corpus procedures, instead of requiring the sentencing commission to do so as in the underlying bill; and (4) adds the judicial branch consultant service contract-related provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, unless stated otherwise below.

§ 1 — OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY

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

OIP Established Purpose

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

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" is 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 OIP's authority under the bill, a "public agency" or "agency" is any:

1. executive, administrative, or legislative office of the state or any of its political subdivisions, and any 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 of it, but only for 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 powers and duties and specifies the 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 may 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 each succeeding page number within a document that contains personal information that needs to be redacted; 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 each succeeding page number within a document that contains personal information that needs to be redacted, 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 and each succeeding page number within a document that contains personal information that needs to be redacted, 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 and each succeeding page number within a document that contains personal information that needs to be redacted, 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 receiving 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.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The bill specifies that it does not require the removal or redaction of personal information in records that must be published under FOIA, such as agendas, minutes, videos, or transcripts of public meetings.

Civil Liability Protection

The bill provides immunity from civil liability for public agency employees 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.

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

Venue (§ 15)

For 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 changes 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 or Simsbury. Instead, it gives the plaintiff in these cases the choice between the Hartford or Litchfield judicial district.

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

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

The bill also 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 Canton or Farmington. Instead, under the bill, for civil actions involving either Canton or Farmington process must be returned to the judicial district where the town is located, which is Litchfield judicial district under the bill.

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 — TASK FORCE TO REVIEW HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS

Establishes a 13-member task force to review the habeas corpus procedures used by the federal government and other states; requires it to report findings and recommendations to the Judiciary Committee by January 15, 2027

Purpose and Required Recommendations

The bill establishes a 13-member task force to review the habeas

corpus procedures used by the federal government and other states and make recommendations to the General Assembly, including best practices that could be implemented in Connecticut to:

1. ensure a timely review and adjudication of habeas corpus claims,
2. establish 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 repetitive or meritless habeas corpus claims, and
4. achieve balance between providing public counsel in habeas corpus claims and the cost of litigating repetitive or meritless claims.

Members and Appointments

Under the bill, the six legislative leaders and the four Judiciary Committee leaders must each appoint one member. The appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill passes and the appointing authorities must fill any vacancies.

The chief court administrator, chief public defender, and chief state's attorney, or their designees, must also serve as task force members.

The House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons from among the taskforce members and the chairpersons must schedule and hold the first meeting within 60 days after the bill passes.

Administrative Staff

The chief court administrator must designate judicial branch employees to serve as the task force's administrative staff.

Reporting

By January 1, 2027, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Judiciary Committee. It terminates when it submits the report or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

§ 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

§§ 31-33 — CONSULTANT SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR JUDICIAL BRANCH CAPITAL PROJECTS

Allows the chief court administrator to contract for consultant services for certain capital projects if the estimated cost for the services is \$300,000 or less

The bill allows the chief court administrator, or her designee, to:

1. compile a list of architects, professional engineers, and construction administrators to provide consultant services for a particular program involving various projects for constructing new buildings or renovating existing ones operated or controlled by the judicial branch and
2. enter into a contract with any of the professionals on the list for the consultant services when the service's estimated cost is \$300,000 or less.

The bill also allows the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner to compile a list of these professionals for the judicial branch and enter into a consultant service contract with them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

§ 34 —CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES

Increases, from \$1.25 million to \$3million, the cap on construction contracts the chief court administrator may plan, execute, oversee, and supervise

The law requires the chief court administrator to, among other things, supervise the care and control of all property where the Judicial Department is the primary occupant.

Under current law this includes planning, executing contracts, except for consultant services contracts, overseeing, and supervising work involving the construction, repair, or alteration of a building or premises under the chief court administrator's supervision, for construction contracts that are \$1.25 million or less. The bill increases the chief court administrator's construction contract cap to \$3 million. Also, as stated above, it allows the chief court administrator to execute consultant service contracts estimated at \$300,000 or less.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, this does not include the probate courts, Division of Criminal Justice, and Public Defender Services Commission, except where they share facilities in state-maintained courts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/04/2025)