

# Senate

File No. 774

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1367

Senate, April 28, 2025

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

# AN ACT PROHIBITING A BAIL BONDSMAN OR AGENT FROM APPREHENDING A PRINCIPAL ON A BOND ON THE PREMISES, GROUNDS OR CAMPUS OF ANY HEALTH CARE FACILITY, SCHOOL, INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

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

- Section 1. Section 29-152k of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 3 (a) Prior to taking or attempting to take into custody the principal on
- 4 a bond, a professional bondsman licensed under chapter 533, a surety
- 5 bail bond agent licensed under chapter 700f or a bail enforcement agent
- 6 licensed under sections 29-152f to 29-152i, inclusive, shall notify the
- 7 police department or resident state trooper for, or state police troop
- 8 having jurisdiction over, the municipality in which the principal is
- 9 believed to be located of such bondsman's or agent's intentions.
- 10 (b) No such professional bondsman, surety bail bond agent or bail
- 11 enforcement agent shall take or attempt to take into custody a principal
- on a bond on the premises, grounds or campus of any (1) health care

13 <u>facility or institution licensed under chapter 368v or operated by the</u>

- 14 state, or office of a health care provider licensed by the Department of
- 15 Public Health, (2) public or private school or institution of higher
- 16 <u>education, or (3) house of worship.</u>
- 17 Sec. 2. Section 54-65c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

19 A court shall vacate an order forfeiting a bail bond and release the 20 professional bondsman, as defined in section 29-144, or the surety bail 21 bond agent and the insurer, as both terms are defined in section 38a-660, 22 if (1) (A) the principal on the bail bond [(A)] (i) is detained or 23 incarcerated [(i)] (I) in another state, territory or country, or [(ii)] (II) by 24 a federal agency, or [(B)] (ii) has been removed by United States 25 Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and [(2)] (B) the professional 26 bondsman, the surety bail bond agent or the insurer provides 27 satisfactory proof of such detention, incarceration or removal to the 28 court and the state's attorney prosecuting the case, and [(3)] (C) the 29 state's attorney prosecuting the case declines to seek extradition of the 30 principal, or (2) the principal on the bail bond is receiving in-patient care 31 in a facility described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 29-32 152k, as amended by this act, and during such period of in-patient care, 33 the court ordered the forfeiture of such bond.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:				
Section 1	October 1, 2025	29-152k		
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	54-65c		

JUD Joint Favorable Subst.

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

#### **OFA Fiscal Note**

# State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential	Minimal	Minimal
	Revenue Loss		

Note: GF=General Fund

# Municipal Impact: None

### Explanation

The bill expands the circumstances when the court must vacate an order forfeiting a bond which results in a potential revenue loss to the General Fund to the extent that fewer bonds are forfeited to the General Fund.

The bill makes other procedural changes affecting professional bail bondsmen and surety bail bond or bail enforcement agents, which result in no fiscal impact to the state as these changes generally affect private entities.

#### The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of bonds are forfeited to the General Fund.

OLR Bill Analysis sSB 1367

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#### SUMMARY

This bill prohibits professional bail bondsmen or surety bail bond or bail enforcement agents from taking or trying to take the principal on a bond into custody on the premises, grounds, or campus of any:

- 1. state-operated or Department of Public Health (DPH)-licensed health care facility or institution, or office of a DPH-licensed health care provider;
- 2. school or higher education institution; or
- 3. house of worship.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, requires these individuals, before taking the person into custody, to notify the applicable law enforcement where the person is believed to be.

The bill also expands the scope of the law requiring the court to vacate an order forfeiting a bond and release the professional bondsman, surety bail bond agent, and insurer so it applies when the principal on the bond is receiving in-patient care at a state-operated or licensed health care facility and the court ordered the forfeiture while the principal was receiving this care. Currently, a court may generally only do this when the principal is detained or incarcerated outside of Connecticut, there is proof of the detention or incarceration, and the prosecutor declines to extradite.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

#### **BACKGROUND**

# **Bondsmen and Agents**

A professional bondsman is in the business of providing bail in five or more criminal cases in a year, whether for compensation or free (CGS § 29-144). He or she puts up personal assets as bond security. A bail enforcement agent is engaged in the business of taking or attempting to take into custody people on bond who fail to appear in court and for whom a rearrest warrant or a capias was issued (CGS § 29-152e). The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection licenses these individuals.

A surety bail bond agent is approved by the insurance commissioner and appointed by an insurer by power of attorney to execute or countersign bail bonds for the insurer in connection with judicial proceedings (CGS § 38a-660).

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

**Judiciary Committee** 

Joint Favorable Substitute Yea 28 Nay 11 (04/10/2025)