



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 777**

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1503

*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 INCENTIVIZING EDUCATIONAL AND WORKFORCE  
ACHIEVEMENT AS A MEANS OF REDUCING A PROBATIONER'S  
TERM OF SUPERVISION.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 53a-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) The court may sentence a person to a period of probation upon  
4 conviction of any crime, other than a class A felony, if it is of the opinion  
5 that: (1) Present or extended institutional confinement of the defendant  
6 is not necessary for the protection of the public; (2) the defendant is in  
7 need of guidance, training or assistance which, in the defendant's case,  
8 can be effectively administered through probation supervision; and (3)  
9 such disposition is not inconsistent with the ends of justice.

10 (b) The court may impose a sentence of conditional discharge for an  
11 offense, other than a class A felony, if it is of the opinion that: (1) Present  
12 or extended institutional confinement of the defendant is not necessary

13 for the protection of the public; and (2) probation supervision is not  
14 appropriate.

15 (c) When the court imposes a sentence of conditional discharge, the  
16 defendant shall be released with respect to the conviction for which the  
17 sentence is imposed but shall be subject, during the period of such  
18 conditional discharge, to such conditions as the court may determine.  
19 The court shall impose the period of conditional discharge authorized  
20 by subsection (d) of this section and shall specify, in accordance with  
21 section 53a-30, the conditions to be complied with. When a person is  
22 sentenced to a period of probation, the court shall impose the period  
23 authorized by subsection (d), (e) or (f) of this section and may impose  
24 any conditions authorized by section 53a-30. When a person is  
25 sentenced to a period of probation, such person shall pay to the court a  
26 fee of two hundred dollars and shall be placed under the supervision of  
27 the Court Support Services Division, provided, if such person is  
28 sentenced to a term of imprisonment the execution of which is not  
29 suspended entirely, payment of such fee shall not be required until such  
30 person is released from confinement and begins the period of probation  
31 supervision.

32 (d) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, the period of  
33 probation or conditional discharge, unless terminated sooner as  
34 provided in section 53a-32 or 53a-33, shall be as follows: (1) For a class  
35 B felony, not more than five years; (2) for a class C, D or E felony or an  
36 unclassified felony, not more than three years; (3) for a class A  
37 misdemeanor, not more than two years; (4) for a class B, C or D  
38 misdemeanor, not more than one year; and (5) for an unclassified  
39 misdemeanor, not more than one year if the authorized sentence of  
40 imprisonment is six months or less, or not more than two years if the  
41 authorized sentence of imprisonment is in excess of six months, or  
42 where the defendant is charged with failure to provide subsistence for  
43 dependents, a determinate or indeterminate period.

44 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section,  
45 the court may, in its discretion, on a case by case basis, sentence a person

46 to a period of probation which period, unless terminated sooner as  
47 provided in section 53a-32 or 53a-33, shall be as follows: (1) For a class  
48 C, D or E felony or an unclassified felony, not more than five years; (2)  
49 for a class A misdemeanor, not more than three years; and (3) for a class  
50 B misdemeanor, not more than two years.

51 (f) The period of probation, unless terminated sooner as provided in  
52 section 53a-32, shall be not less than ten years or more than thirty-five  
53 years for conviction of a violation of section 53a-70b of the general  
54 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or subdivision (2)  
55 of subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-  
56 72a, 53a-72b, 53a-90a or subdivision (2), (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of  
57 section 53a-189a, or section 53a-196b, 53a-196c, 53a-196d, 53a-196e or  
58 53a-196f.

59 (g) Whenever the court sentences a person, on or after October 1,  
60 2008, to a period of probation of more than two years for a class C, D or  
61 E felony or an unclassified felony or more than one year for a class A or  
62 B misdemeanor, the probation officer supervising such person shall  
63 submit a report to the sentencing court, the state's attorney and the  
64 attorney of record, if any, for such person, not later than sixty days prior  
65 to the date such person completes two years of such person's period of  
66 probation for such felony or one year of such person's period of  
67 probation for such misdemeanor setting forth such person's (1) progress  
68 in addressing such person's assessed needs and complying with the  
69 conditions of such person's probation, and (2) educational and  
70 workforce achievements, if appropriate. The probation officer shall  
71 recommend, in accordance with guidelines developed by the Judicial  
72 Branch, whether such person's sentence of probation should be  
73 continued for the duration of the original period of probation or be  
74 terminated. If such person is serving a period of probation concurrent  
75 with another period of probation, the probation officer shall submit a  
76 report only when such person becomes eligible for termination of the  
77 period of probation with the latest return date, at which time all of such  
78 person's probation cases shall be presented to the court for review. Not  
79 later than sixty days after receipt of such report, the sentencing court

80 shall continue the sentence of probation or terminate the sentence of  
81 probation. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 53a-32, the parties  
82 may agree to waive the requirement of a court hearing. The Court  
83 Support Services Division shall establish within its policy and  
84 procedures a requirement that any victim be notified whenever a  
85 person's sentence of probation may be terminated pursuant to this  
86 subsection. The sentencing court shall permit such victim to appear  
87 before the sentencing court for the purpose of making a statement for  
88 the record concerning whether such person's sentence of probation  
89 should be terminated. In lieu of such appearance, the victim may submit  
90 a written statement to the sentencing court and the sentencing court  
91 shall make such statement a part of the record. Prior to ordering that  
92 such person's sentence of probation be continued or terminated, the  
93 sentencing court shall consider the statement made or submitted by  
94 such victim.

95 (h) For the purposes of this section, a motor vehicle violation for  
96 which a sentence to a term of imprisonment of more than one year may  
97 be imposed shall be deemed an unclassified felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	July 1, 2025	53a-29
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**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill allows educational and workforce achievement to be considered as factors for reducing a probationer's term of supervision which results in a potential savings to the Judicial Department. On average, the marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600<sup>1</sup> each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to actual reductions in probation length of time as a result of this bill.

<sup>1</sup> Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1503*****AN ACT INCENTIVIZING EDUCATIONAL AND WORKFORCE ACHIEVEMENT AS A MEANS OF REDUCING A PROBATIONER'S TERM OF SUPERVISION.*****SUMMARY**

Existing law requires a person's probation officer to submit a progress report to the sentencing court, state's attorney, and probationer's attorney (if any) if the person was sentenced to more than a specified number of years of probation for certain offenses.

This bill requires the report to include the person's educational and workforce achievements, if appropriate. Under existing law, the report must include the person's progress in addressing his or her assessed needs and compliance with probation conditions.

As under existing law, the probation officer must submit this report to the sentencing court at least 60 days before the (1) two-year mark in the probation term of someone sentenced to more than two years of probation for a class C, D, or E felony or an unclassified felony or (2) one-year mark in the probation term of someone sentenced to more than one year of probation for a class A or B misdemeanor. The report must recommend whether the person's probation should be continued or terminated. Within 60 days after receiving the report, the court must either continue or terminate the probation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/10/2025)