

# Judiciary Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7142

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAUSE OF ACTION FOR TORTIOUS

**Title:** INTERFERENCE WITH THE RIGHT OF AN INHERITANCE.

**Vote Date:** 4/10/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/10/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

A cause of action for tortious interference with inheritance allows a person to sue someone who they believe has obstructed the person's expectation of inheritance. Connecticut statutes do not provide for this cause of action. In 2015, a legislative proposal would have expressly established in statute a cause of action to recover damages for such a tort, but that bill did not become law. However, tortious interference with an expected inheritance is recognized as a valid cause of action under the Restatement (Second) of Torts and several Superior Court opinions have recognized such a cause of action in Connecticut. This bill aims to establish a statutory cause of action for tortious interference with the right of an inheritance.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

**Alinor Sterling, President, Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association (CTLA):** The Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association (CTLA) offered testimony in support of HB 7142, calling it "important legislation" that "affirms the fundamental principle that every individual should have access to the courts to seek redress when they have suffered harm." They believe that this bill "provides Connecticut citizens with the same protections" as courts "across the country" do when "protecting legitimate expectancies from unlawful interference."

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

**Reported by:** Austin Hyatt

**Date:** April 22, 2025