

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1367

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

Title: HIGHER EDUCATION OR HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

Vote Date: 4/10/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/19/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Recently, there has been an increase in incident involving bounty hunters staking out residential substance use treatment centers and trying gain access to arrest fugitives. While usually there is a continuance when someone is in treatment, there are times when the communication to the court does not happen. At times, these actions have been violent, with often-armed agents attempting to arrest clients and clients and staff have been injured and arrested or hospitalized due to the ensuing melee. Further, pulling individuals away from treatment and being retrieved in a violent way has had negative effects on the clients being served at these centers. Federal healthcare privacy laws prevent members of these facilities from disclosing the identity of the patients in their programs in many instances, and there are currently no statutes or regulations preventing bounty hunters from coming onto the grounds of inpatient treatment centers. Therefore, this bill would prohibit a 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.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language makes wording changes to include that the facility may be operated by the state, and it adds a separate section regarding vacating the order of forfeiture of a bond in the case of a principal of the bond receiving in-patient care during the period in which the forfeiture is ordered.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Terrence Cheng, Chancellor, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities: Terrence Cheng submitted testimony in support of this legislation because it sends a message that the CT State educational institutions are committed to education and can prevent distractions to students who may be caught up or witness such an event as a principal apprehension. He also believes that campuses are adequately protected by police as is.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, ACLU CT: Jess Zaccagnino submitted testimony in support of this legislation because people who are incarcerated because they cannot afford bail are most often people of color with low incomes. She believes that the institutions listed in this bill, places of health, learning and religion, should all be places of refuge. Presence of bond agents at these locations will only stoke fear and keep people at home.

Madeline Negrón, Ph.D., Superintendent, New Haven Public Schools: Dr. Negrón submitted testimony in support of this legislation because the state must prioritize the emotional and psychological safety of students. The presence of a bond agent at a school disrupts the educational, safe nature of the grounds and instills fear. This also impacts teachers as they are now faced with fear for safety and uncertainty.

Jason Fink, Bail Enforcement Agent, All City Bail Bonds: Jason Fink submitted testimony in support of this legislation and suggests a minor language change that closes a potential loophole, which can be exploited by a criminal to legally avoid apprehension by a bail agent. They would appreciate instructions that address the moving parts that do not compromise the bond.

Andrew Bloom, President, Fugitive Recovery Agency, Inc.: Andrew Bloom submitted testimony in support of this legislation because it is common practice not to enter these facilities anyway. However, he explains that there is existing federal law, *Taylor v. Taintor*, that may grant agents the right to apprehend a principle on these grounds and this must be accounted for. If a bond agent is prevented by this law from making an apprehension in one of these areas, the surety must be provided relief.

Daniel Toner, President, 3 D Bail Bonds Inc: Daniel Toner submitted testimony in support of this legislation because it is not their usual practice to apprehend principles when receiving medical treatment. He does, however, believe that some of the provisions could violate the Supreme Court's ruling in *Taylor v. Taintor*. Because of this, he believes that if agents are prohibited by law from apprehending a fugitive, the surety must be provided relief.

Monica Nugent, Public Policy and Advocacy Associate, The Alliance: Monica Nugent submitted testimony in support of this legislation because clients being served at treatment facilities deserve safety and dignity. Encounters with bond agents at these locations has turned violent on multiple instances, which significantly disrupts treatment and the wellbeing of other patients and staff.

Rebecca Angeloff, LCSW: Rebecca Angeloff submitted testimony in support of this legislation because we should not decide who does and doesn't deserve value.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Griffin Olshan

Date: April 21, 2025