

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1503

AN ACT INCENTIVIZING EDUCATIONAL AND WORKFORCE ACHIEVEMENT

Title: AS A MEANS OF REDUCING A PROBATIONER'S TERM OF SUPERVISION.

Vote Date: 4/10/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/31/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

CO-SPONSORS:

Rep. Maryam Khan, 5th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill aims to provide incentivization to those on probation to complete the acts that have been proven to reduce recidivism, such as educational and workforce achievements, in order to reduce the probationer's term of supervision.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language replaces the underlying bill and inserts "and (2) educational and workforce achievements, if appropriate" at the request of the Judicial Branch.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Judicial Branch, External Affairs: The Judicial Branch submitted testimony expressing concerns regarding judicial review. They explained that this process would replace judicial review with an internal mechanism that places discretion with the Court Support Services Division. They stated that there is already a structure in place that incentivizes a person's achievements on probation that includes judicial review and feel that this opens the door to fraud and corruption.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, ACLU CT: Jess Zaccagnino submitted testimony in support of this legislation because it is a good step towards reducing recidivism. Incentivizing education and employment can help to address the low employment rates and poverty of ex-convicts, and can also help to stimulate the economy by growing the workforce.

Chris Senecal, Sr. Public Policy Officer, Hartford Foundation: Chris Senecal submitted testimony in support of this legislation because it provides educational and employment resources to recently released convicts to re-enter society. Sustained participation in education and employment programs can be a key factor in reducing recidivism and increasing community engagement upon release from a correctional institution.

Qiana Torres: Qiana Torres submitted testimony in support of this legislation because it is a crucial step towards rehabilitation, accountability, and successful social reintegration. They have witnessed first-hand just how hard some ex-convicts work to rebuild their lives and how they are still crippled by probation. They believe this law would help to reduce those barriers, and failure to do so can lead to recidivism.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Natasha Pierre, Esq., State Victim Advocate, Office of the Victim Advocate: Natasha Pierre submitted testimony in opposition of this legislation because the incentives outlined in the bill should simply be minimum expectations for probation. They believe that the current statute, 53a-29(g), acts as this law is intended to, making it redundant.

Reported by: Griffin Olshan

Date: April 20, 2025