

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Substitute Bill No. 13

* SB 0 0 0 1 3 A G E 0 3 1 0 2 5 *

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELDER JUSTICE UNIT AND ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE TO TARGET CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Within available appropriations, there is established within the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection a state-wide elder abuse task force for the effective enforcement of the laws of this state concerning elder abuse.

6 (b) The task force shall conduct investigations in coordination with 7 the elder justice unit established pursuant to sections 51-279 of the 8 general statutes, as amended by this act, and 51-279b of the general 9 statutes, as amended by this act, and may investigate suspected elder 10 abuse at any place within the state as the task force deems necessary.

11 (c) The task force may (1) request and receive from any federal, state 12 or local agency cooperation and assistance in the performance of its 13 duties, including the temporary assignment of personnel that may be 14 necessary to carry out the performance of its functions, (2) enter into 15 mutual assistance and cooperation agreements with other states 16 pertaining to elder abuse law enforcement matters extending across 17 state boundaries, and (3) consult and exchange information and 18 personnel with agencies of other states with reference to elder abuse law

19 enforcement problems of mutual concern.

20 (d) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
21 may appoint a commanding officer and such other personnel as said
22 commissioner deems necessary for the duties of the task force.

Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 51-279 of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*1, 2025):

26 (a) The Chief State's Attorney, with the advice of the Division of 27 Criminal Justice Advisory Board under section 51-279a, shall 28 administer, direct, supervise, coordinate and control the operations, 29 activities and programs of the division as it shall apply to the Superior 30 Court. [He] The Chief State's Attorney shall: (1) Establish such bureaus, 31 divisions, facilities and offices, including an appellate unit, a 32 racketeering and continuing criminal activities unit, [and] a bond 33 forfeiture unit and an elder justice unit, and select such professional, 34 technical and other personnel, including chief inspectors, as [he] the 35 Chief State's Attorney deems reasonably necessary for the efficient 36 operation and discharge of the duties of the division, subject to the 37 personnel policies and compensation plan established by the 38 Department of Administrative Services; (2) adopt and enforce rules and 39 regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter; (3) establish 40 guidelines, policies and procedures for the internal operation and 41 administration of the division which shall be binding on all division 42 personnel; (4) enter into contracts with consultants and such other 43 persons as are necessary for the proper functioning of the office; (5) 44 engage in long-range planning and review policy and legislation 45 concerning the administration of criminal justice in the state and 46 recommend needed changes and additions thereto; (6) collect statistical 47 data concerning administration of criminal justice in the state and 48 furnish the data to the appropriate committee of the General Assembly; 49 (7) conduct research and evaluate programs within his office; (8) 50 establish staff development, training and education programs designed 51 to improve the quality of the division's services and programs; (9)

52 coordinate the activities of the division with those of such other state, 53 municipal, regional, federal and private agencies as are concerned with 54 the administration of criminal justice; (10) be authorized to receive and 55 administer funds from the federal government or any charitable 56 foundation to assist in the operations of the division; (11) supervise, 57 approve and issue all orders concerning all purchases of commodities, 58 equipment and services for the Division of Criminal Justice; (12) 59 supervise the administrative methods and systems employed in the 60 Division of Criminal Justice; (13) submit to the Department of Administrative Services for its approval a compensation plan for all 61 62 employees of the division, which plan may include sick leave, vacation 63 leave, absences without pay, longevity payments, increments and all 64 other matters regarding personnel policies and procedures; (14) 65 establish with the approval of the Department of Administrative 66 Services such job classifications as [he] the Chief State's Attorney deems 67 necessary for the operation of the division; (15) audit bills to be paid 68 from state appropriations for the expenses of the Division of Criminal 69 Justice; (16) maintain adequate accounting and budgetary records for all 70 appropriations by the state for the maintenance of the Division of 71 Criminal Justice and all other appropriations assigned by the legislature 72 or state budgetary control offices for administration by the Division of 73 Criminal Justice; (17) serve as payroll officer for the Division of Criminal 74 Justice; and (18) have such other powers and duties as are reasonably 75 necessary to administer the division and implement the purposes of this 76 chapter. [He] The Chief State's Attorney shall prepare and submit to the 77 Office of Policy and Management estimates of appropriations necessary 78 for the maintenance of the division and make recommendations with 79 respect thereto for inclusion as a separate item in the budget request of 80 the Division of Criminal Justice.

81 Sec. 3. Section 51-279b of the general statutes is repealed and the 82 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish a racketeering and
continuing criminal activities unit within the Division of Criminal
Justice. Such unit shall be available for the investigation and prosecution

of criminal matters including, but not limited to, the illegal purchase and
sale of controlled substances, criminal activity by gangs, fraud,
corruption, illegal gambling and the recruitment of persons to carry out
such illegal activities.

(b) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish a bond forfeiture unit
within the Division of Criminal Justice. Such unit shall be responsible
for the collection, in the name of the state, and by suit when necessary,
of all forfeited bonds payable to the state. Such unit may compromise
and settle forfeited bonds for less than the amount thereof without
regard to the expiration of any stay of forfeiture.

96 (c) The Chief State's Attorney shall develop uniform standards for the
97 compromise and settlement of forfeited bonds. Such standards shall be
98 applied on a state-wide basis.

99 (d) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish an elder justice unit

100 within the Division of Criminal Justice. Such unit shall be available for

101 the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters that involve

102 <u>criminal activity against elderly persons.</u>

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	51-279(a)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	51-279b

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The title was changed.

AGE Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO