



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 1502***

LCO No. 6193



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SENTENCE REDUCTION OR RELIEF FOR  
SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT,  
STALKING OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 53a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 [For] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for any  
4 felony committed on or after July 1, 1981, the sentence of imprisonment  
5 shall be a definite sentence and, unless the section of the general statutes  
6 that defines or provides the penalty for the crime specifically provides  
7 otherwise, the term shall be fixed by the court as follows:

8 (1) (A) For a capital felony committed prior to April 25, 2012, under  
9 the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, a term  
10 of life imprisonment without the possibility of release unless a sentence  
11 of death is imposed in accordance with section 53a-46a, or (B) for the  
12 class A felony of murder with special circumstances committed on or  
13 after April 25, 2012, under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect on  
14 or after April 25, 2012, a term of life imprisonment without the

15 possibility of release;

16 (2) For the class A felony of murder, a term not less than twenty-five  
17 years nor more than life;

18 (3) For the class A felony of aggravated sexual assault of a minor  
19 under section 53a-70c, a term not less than twenty-five years or more  
20 than fifty years;

21 (4) For a class A felony other than an offense specified in subdivision  
22 (2) or (3) of this section, a term not less than ten years nor more than  
23 twenty-five years;

24 (5) For the class B felony of manslaughter in the first degree with a  
25 firearm under section 53a-55a, a term not less than five years nor more  
26 than forty years;

27 (6) For a class B felony other than manslaughter in the first degree  
28 with a firearm under section 53a-55a, a term not less than one year nor  
29 more than twenty years;

30 (7) For a class C felony, a term not less than one year nor more than  
31 ten years;

32 (8) For a class D felony, a term not more than five years;

33 (9) For a class E felony, a term not more than three years; and

34 (10) For an unclassified felony, a term in accordance with the sentence  
35 specified in the section of the general statutes that defines or provides  
36 the penalty for the crime.

37 (b) (1) Prior to a court imposing a sentence of imprisonment for a  
38 felony offense, a defendant may move for application of this subsection  
39 to such defendant's sentence. Upon such motion and a determination by  
40 the court that (A) the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
41 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) domestic

42 violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a  
43 contributing factor in the commission of the offense, the court shall  
44 impose a sentence in accordance with this subsection.

45 (2) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "domestic violence" has the  
46 same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 46b-1; (B) "sexual  
47 assault" means any act that constitutes a violation of section 53a-70b of  
48 the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or  
49 section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a; (C)  
50 "stalking" means any act that constitutes a violation of section 53a-181c,  
51 53a-181d, 53a-181e or 53a-181f; (D) "trafficking in persons" means  
52 trafficking in persons under section 53a-192a or a criminal violation of  
53 18 USC Chapter 77, as amended from time to time; and (E) "contributing  
54 factor" means a factor that influences an offense but is not necessarily  
55 the sole, primary, substantial or major factor leading to the offense.

56 (3) Such defendant shall provide the court at least two pieces of  
57 documented proof corroborating that the defendant is a survivor of  
58 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons that  
59 may include, but need not be limited to, a signed affidavit attesting to  
60 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; a court  
61 record; presentence report; social services record; hospital record; law  
62 enforcement record; restraining order or protective order pursuant to  
63 section 46b-15, 46b-16a or 46b-38c, subsection (f) of section 53a-28 or  
64 section 53a-40e or 54-1k, or a foreign order of protection, as defined in  
65 section 46b-15a; sworn statement from a person with direct or indirect  
66 knowledge of the domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
67 trafficking in persons; documentation prepared at or near the time of the  
68 commission or prosecution of the present offense tending to support the  
69 claims of the defendant; records provided by a licensed medical care  
70 provider or mental health care provider; or sworn statements from a  
71 member of the clergy, an attorney or a social worker, or a domestic  
72 violence counselor or sexual assault counselor, each as defined in  
73 section 52-146k, or other advocate acting on behalf of a survivor of  
74 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons.

75     (4) At any time prior to sentencing, the court shall consider testimony  
 76     from witnesses offered by the prosecution or defense, consider oral and  
 77     written arguments and consider any other evidence relevant to the  
 78     court's determination of whether domestic violence, sexual assault,  
 79     stalking or trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the  
 80     commission of the defendant's offense. Reliable hearsay evidence shall  
 81     be admissible at the hearing for purposes of this subsection.

82     (5) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes providing  
 83     a term of imprisonment for a felony offense, including a mandatory  
 84     minimum sentence, if the court finds by a preponderance of the  
 85     evidence that domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
 86     in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of the offense,  
 87     the court shall depart from the applicable sentence under subsection (a)  
 88     of this section or the sentence provided under the section of the general  
 89     statutes for the applicable offense, to the ranges provided as follows: (A)  
 90     A term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release shall be  
 91     reduced to a term of thirty years imprisonment or less; (B) a term of fifty  
 92     years of imprisonment or more, but not life imprisonment without the  
 93     possibility of release, shall be reduced to a term of twenty-five years  
 94     imprisonment or less; (C) a term of forty years of imprisonment or more,  
 95     up to, but not including, fifty years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a  
 96     term of twenty years imprisonment or less; (D) a term of thirty years of  
 97     imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a term of forty years  
 98     imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of fifteen years imprisonment  
 99     or less; (E) a term of twenty-five years of imprisonment or more, up to,  
 100     but not including, a term of thirty years imprisonment, shall be reduced  
 101     to a term of twelve and one-half years imprisonment or less; (F) a term  
 102     of twenty years of imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a  
 103     term of twenty-five years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of  
 104     ten years imprisonment or less; (G) a term of ten years of imprisonment  
 105     or more, up to, but not including, a term of twenty years imprisonment,  
 106     shall be reduced to a term of five years imprisonment or less; (H) a term  
 107     of five years of imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a term

108 of ten years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of five years  
109 imprisonment or less; and (I) a term of three years of imprisonment or  
110 more, up to, but not including, a term of five years imprisonment, shall  
111 be reduced to a term of eighteen months imprisonment or less.

112 (6) If the court finds that such defendant has not met the requirements  
113 to apply for relief as provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
114 the court shall deny such defendant's motion without prejudice.

115 (7) Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a defendant from  
116 seeking or obtaining relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as  
117 amended by this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a,  
118 as amended by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence  
119 reduction relief.

120 Sec. 2. Section 53a-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
121 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

122 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, at any time  
123 during an executed period of incarceration, the sentencing court or  
124 judge may, after hearing and for good cause shown, reduce the sentence,  
125 order the defendant discharged, or order the defendant discharged on  
126 probation or conditional discharge for a period not to exceed that to  
127 which the defendant could have been originally sentenced.

128 (b) ~~[On]~~ Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, on and  
129 after October 1, 2021, at any time during the period of a sentence in  
130 which a defendant has been sentenced prior to, on or after October 1,  
131 2021, to an executed period of incarceration of more than seven years as  
132 a result of a plea agreement, including an agreement in which there is  
133 an agreed upon range of sentence, upon agreement of the defendant and  
134 the state's attorney to seek review of the sentence, the sentencing court  
135 or judge may, after hearing and for good cause shown, reduce the  
136 sentence, order the defendant discharged, or order the defendant  
137 discharged on probation or conditional discharge for a period not to  
138 exceed that to which the defendant could have been originally

139 sentenced.

140 (c) If, after a hearing pursuant to this section, the sentencing court or  
141 judge denies or grants in full a motion to reduce a defendant's sentence  
142 or discharge the defendant, the defendant may not file a subsequent  
143 motion for relief under this section until five years have elapsed from  
144 the date of the most recent decision denying such defendant relief  
145 pursuant to this section. If, after a hearing pursuant to this section, the  
146 sentencing court or judge grants in part a motion to reduce a defendant's  
147 sentence, the defendant may not file a subsequent motion for relief  
148 under this section until three years from the date of the most recent  
149 decision granting such defendant relief pursuant to this section.

150 (d) [The] Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, the  
151 provisions of this section shall not apply to any portion of a sentence  
152 imposed that is a mandatory minimum sentence for an offense which  
153 may not be suspended or reduced by the court.

154 (e) At the time the defendant files a motion with the court, the  
155 defendant shall provide the state with a copy of the motion and any  
156 materials and documentation filed with the court in support of such  
157 motion.

158 (f) At a hearing held by the sentencing court or judge under this  
159 section, such court or judge shall permit any victim of the crime to  
160 appear before the court or judge for the purpose of making a statement  
161 for the record concerning whether or not the sentence of the defendant  
162 should be reduced, the defendant should be discharged or the  
163 defendant should be discharged on probation or conditional discharge  
164 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section. In lieu of such  
165 appearance, the victim may submit a written statement to the court or  
166 judge and the court or judge shall make such statement a part of the  
167 record at the hearing. For the purposes of this subsection, "victim"  
168 means the victim, the legal representative of the victim or a member of  
169 the deceased victim's immediate family.

170     (g) (1) Any defendant filing a motion for sentence modification  
171     pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this subsection shall have the  
172     opportunity to present evidence demonstrating that (A) the defendant  
173     is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
174     in persons, and (B) domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
175     trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of the  
176     offense.

177     (2) For purposes of this subsection "domestic violence", "sexual  
178     assault", "stalking", "trafficking in persons" and "contributing factor"  
179     have the same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a,  
180     as amended by this act.

181     (3) Any defendant seeking consideration pursuant to this subsection  
182     shall provide the court at least two pieces of documented proof  
183     corroborating that the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
184     sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons that may include, but  
185     need not be limited to, a signed affidavit attesting to subparagraphs (A)  
186     and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; a court record; presentence  
187     report; social services record; hospital record; law enforcement record;  
188     restraining order or protective order pursuant to section 46b-15, 46b-16a  
189     or 46b-38c, subsection (f) of section 53a-28 or section 53a-40e or 54-1k, or  
190     a foreign order of protection, as defined in section 46b-15a; sworn  
191     statement from a person with direct or indirect knowledge of the  
192     domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons;  
193     documentation prepared at or near the time of the commission or  
194     prosecution of the offense tending to support the claims of the  
195     defendant; records provided by a licensed medical care provider or  
196     mental health care provider; or sworn statements from a member of the  
197     clergy, an attorney or a social worker, or a domestic violence counselor  
198     or sexual assault counselor, each as defined in section 52-146k, or other  
199     advocate acting on behalf of a survivor of domestic violence, sexual  
200     assault, stalking or trafficking in persons. Any defendant who complies  
201     with this subdivision shall be granted a hearing pursuant to this section.

202       (4) At a hearing held under this section, the court shall take testimony  
203 from witnesses offered by the state or defense, consider oral and written  
204 arguments and consider any other evidence relevant to the court's  
205 determination of whether domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
206 trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of the  
207 defendant's offense. Reliable hearsay shall be admissible for purposes of  
208 this subsection. The court may determine that violence or abuse the  
209 defendant suffered due to being subjected to domestic violence, sexual  
210 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was related to and was a  
211 contributing factor to the offense regardless of whether the defendant  
212 had previously raised evidence of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
213 stalking or trafficking in persons during the defendant's trial, plea  
214 negotiations or sentencing hearing.

215       (5) Regardless of whether the defendant is subject to a mandatory  
216 minimum sentence, if the court finds by a preponderance of the  
217 evidence that (A) the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
218 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) domestic  
219 violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a  
220 contributing factor in the commission of the offense, the court shall  
221 reduce the sentence in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b)  
222 of section 53a-35a, as amended by this act.

223       (6) The court may waive the timeline under subsection (c) of this  
224 section if the defendant presents new evidence or shows good cause for  
225 delay in presenting evidence.

226       (7) If the court finds that such defendant has not met the requirements  
227 to apply for relief as provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
228 the court shall notify the defendant and deny such defendant's request  
229 without prejudice.

230       (8) Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a defendant from  
231 seeking or obtaining relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as  
232 amended by this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a,

233 as amended by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence  
 234 reduction relief.

235 Sec. 3. Section 54-125a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 236 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

237 (a) A person convicted of one or more crimes who is incarcerated on  
 238 or after October 1, 1990, who received a definite sentence or total  
 239 effective sentence of more than two years, and who has been confined  
 240 under such sentence or sentences for not less than one-half of the total  
 241 effective sentence less any risk reduction credit earned under the  
 242 provisions of section 18-98e or one-half of the most recent sentence  
 243 imposed by the court less any risk reduction credit earned under the  
 244 provisions of section 18-98e, whichever is greater, may be allowed to go  
 245 at large on parole (1) in accordance with the provisions of section 54-  
 246 125i, or (2) in the discretion of a panel of the Board of Pardons and  
 247 Paroles, if (A) it appears from all available information, including any  
 248 reports from the Commissioner of Correction that the panel may  
 249 require, that there is a reasonable probability that such inmate will live  
 250 and remain at liberty without violating the law, and (B) such release is  
 251 not incompatible with the welfare of society. At the discretion of the  
 252 panel, and under the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the  
 253 panel including requiring the parolee to submit personal reports, the  
 254 parolee shall be allowed to return to the parolee's home or to reside in a  
 255 residential community center, or to go elsewhere. The parolee shall,  
 256 while on parole, remain under the jurisdiction of the board until the  
 257 expiration of the maximum term or terms for which the parolee was  
 258 sentenced less any risk reduction credit earned under the provisions of  
 259 section 18-98e. Any parolee released on the condition that the parolee  
 260 reside in a residential community center may be required to contribute  
 261 to the cost incidental to such residence. Each order of parole shall fix the  
 262 limits of the parolee's residence, which may be changed in the discretion  
 263 of the board and the Commissioner of Correction. Within three weeks  
 264 after the commitment of each person sentenced to more than two years,  
 265 the state's attorney for the judicial district shall send to the Board of

266 Pardons and Paroles the record, if any, of such person.

267 (b) (1) No person convicted of any of the following offenses, which  
268 was committed on or after July 1, 1981, shall be eligible for parole under  
269 subsection (a) of this section: (A) Capital felony, as provided under the  
270 provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, (B) murder  
271 with special circumstances, as provided under the provisions of section  
272 53a-54b in effect on or after April 25, 2012, (C) felony murder, as  
273 provided in section 53a-54c, (D) arson murder, as provided in section  
274 53a-54d, (E) murder, as provided in section 53a-54a, or (F) aggravated  
275 sexual assault in the first degree, as provided in section 53a-70a. (2) A  
276 person convicted of (A) a violation of section 53a-100aa or 53a-102, or  
277 (B) an offense, other than an offense specified in subdivision (1) of this  
278 subsection, where the underlying facts and circumstances of the offense  
279 involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force  
280 against another person shall be ineligible for parole under subsection (a)  
281 of this section until such person has served not less than eighty-five per  
282 cent of the definite sentence imposed.

283 (c) The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall, not later than July 1, 1996,  
284 adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to ensure that a person  
285 convicted of an offense described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of  
286 this section is not released on parole until such person has served eighty-  
287 five per cent of the definite sentence imposed by the court. Such  
288 regulations shall include guidelines and procedures for classifying a  
289 person as a violent offender that are not limited to a consideration of the  
290 elements of the offense or offenses for which such person was convicted.

291 (d) The Board of Pardons and Paroles may hold a hearing to  
292 determine the suitability for parole release of any person whose  
293 eligibility for parole release is not subject to the provisions of subsection  
294 (b) of this section upon completion by such person of seventy-five per  
295 cent of such person's definite or total effective sentence less any risk  
296 reduction credit earned under the provisions of section 18-98e. An  
297 employee of the board or, if deemed necessary by the chairperson, a

298 panel of the board shall assess the suitability for parole release of such  
299 person based on the following standards: (1) Whether there is  
300 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
301 without violating the law, and (2) whether the benefits to such person  
302 and society that would result from such person's release to community  
303 supervision substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and  
304 society that would result from such person's continued incarceration. If  
305 a hearing is held, and if the board determines that continued  
306 confinement is necessary, the board shall articulate for the record the  
307 specific reasons why such person and the public would not benefit from  
308 such person serving a period of parole supervision while transitioning  
309 from incarceration to the community. If a hearing is not held, the board  
310 shall document the specific reasons for not holding a hearing and  
311 provide such reasons to such person. No person shall be released on  
312 parole without receiving a hearing. The decision of the board under this  
313 subsection shall not be subject to appeal.

314 (e) The Board of Pardons and Paroles may hold a hearing to  
315 determine the suitability for parole release of any person whose  
316 eligibility for parole release is subject to the provisions of subdivision  
317 (2) of subsection (b) of this section upon completion by such person of  
318 eighty-five per cent of such person's definite or total effective sentence.  
319 An employee of the board or, if deemed necessary by the chairperson, a  
320 panel of the board shall assess the suitability for parole release of such  
321 person based on the following standards: (1) Whether there is a  
322 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
323 without violating the law, and (2) whether the benefits to such person  
324 and society that would result from such person's release to community  
325 supervision substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and  
326 society that would result from such person's continued incarceration. If  
327 a hearing is held, and if the board determines that continued  
328 confinement is necessary, the board shall articulate for the record the  
329 specific reasons why such person and the public would not benefit from  
330 such person serving a period of parole supervision while transitioning

331 from incarceration to the community. No hearing pursuant to the  
332 provisions of this subsection may proceed unless the parole release  
333 panel is in possession of the complete file for such applicant, including  
334 any documentation from the Department of Correction, the trial  
335 transcript, the sentencing record and any file of any previous parole  
336 hearing. Each member of the panel shall certify that all such  
337 documentation has been reviewed in preparation for such hearing. If a  
338 hearing is not held, the board shall document the specific reasons for not  
339 holding a hearing and provide such reasons to such person. No person  
340 shall be released on parole without receiving a hearing. The decision of  
341 the board under this subsection shall not be subject to appeal.

342 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (e),  
343 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
344 committed while such person was under eighteen years of age, who is  
345 incarcerated on or after October 1, 2015, and who received a definite  
346 sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten years for such crime  
347 or crimes prior to, on or after October 1, 2015, may be allowed to go at  
348 large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the Board of Pardons  
349 and Paroles for the institution in which such person is confined,  
350 provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty years or less,  
351 such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty per cent of the  
352 sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such person is  
353 serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person shall be eligible  
354 for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this subsection shall  
355 limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the provisions of  
356 subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section if such person would be  
357 eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any of such provisions.

358 (2) The board shall apply the parole eligibility rules of this subsection  
359 only with respect to the sentence for a crime or crimes committed while  
360 a person was under eighteen years of age. Any portion of a sentence that  
361 is based on a crime or crimes committed while a person was eighteen  
362 years of age or older shall be subject to the applicable parole eligibility,  
363 suitability and release rules set forth in subsections (a) to (e), inclusive,

364 of this section.

365 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
366 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
367 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
368 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
369 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
370 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
371 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such  
372 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
373 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
374 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
375 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
376 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement  
377 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
378 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of  
379 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a. The  
380 board may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
381 relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of Correction or  
382 other persons, as the board may require. The board shall use validated  
383 risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-based  
384 structured decision making and release criteria established pursuant to  
385 subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a determination pursuant to  
386 this subsection.

387 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at large  
388 on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was based on a  
389 crime or crimes committed while such person was under eighteen years  
390 of age if the board finds that such parole release would be consistent  
391 with the factors set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of  
392 subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears, from all available  
393 information, including, but not limited to, any reports from the  
394 Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a reasonable probability  
395 that such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the  
396 law, (B) the benefits to such person and society that would result from

397 such person's release to community supervision substantially outweigh  
398 the benefits to such person and society that would result from such  
399 person's continued incarceration, and (C) such person has demonstrated  
400 substantial rehabilitation since the date such crime or crimes were  
401 committed considering such person's character, background and  
402 history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but not limited to, such  
403 person's correctional record, the age and circumstances of such person  
404 as of the date of the commission of the crime or crimes, whether such  
405 person has demonstrated remorse and increased maturity since the date  
406 of the commission of the crime or crimes, such person's contributions to  
407 the welfare of other persons through service, such person's efforts to  
408 overcome substance abuse, addiction, trauma, lack of education or  
409 obstacles that such person may have faced as a child or youth in the  
410 adult correctional system, the opportunities for rehabilitation in the  
411 adult correctional system, whether the person has also applied for or  
412 received a sentence modification and the overall degree of such person's  
413 rehabilitation considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or  
414 crimes.

415 (5) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
416 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that  
417 continued confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such  
418 person's suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date to be  
419 determined at the discretion of the board, but not earlier than two years  
420 after the date of its decision.

421 (6) The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be subject  
422 to appeal.

423 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f),  
424 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
425 committed while such person was under twenty-one years of age, who  
426 was sentenced on or before October 1, 2005, and who received a definite  
427 sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten years' incarceration  
428 for such crime or crimes committed on or before October 1, 2005, may

429 be allowed to go at large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the  
430 Board of Pardons and Paroles for the institution in which such person is  
431 confined, provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty years  
432 or less, such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty per  
433 cent of the sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such  
434 person is serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person shall  
435 be eligible for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this  
436 subsection shall limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the  
437 provisions of subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of this section if such  
438 person would be eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any  
439 of such provisions.

440 (2) The board shall apply the parole eligibility rules of this subsection  
441 only with respect to the sentence for a crime or crimes committed while  
442 a person was under twenty-one years of age. Any portion of a sentence  
443 that is based on a crime or crimes committed while a person was twenty-  
444 one years of age or older shall be subject to the applicable parole  
445 eligibility, suitability and release rules set forth in subsections (a) to (e),  
446 inclusive, of this section.

447 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
448 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
449 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
450 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
451 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
452 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
453 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such  
454 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
455 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
456 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
457 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
458 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement  
459 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
460 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of  
461 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a. The

462 board may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
463 relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of Correction or  
464 other persons, as the board may require. The board shall use validated  
465 risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-based  
466 structured decision making and release criteria established pursuant to  
467 subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a determination pursuant to  
468 this subsection.

469 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at large  
470 on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was based on a  
471 crime or crimes committed while such person was under twenty-one  
472 years of age, if the board finds that such parole release would be  
473 consistent with the factors set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive,  
474 of subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears, from all available  
475 information, including, but not limited to, any reports from the  
476 Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a reasonable probability  
477 that such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the  
478 law, (B) the benefits to such person and society that would result from  
479 such person's release to community supervision substantially outweigh  
480 the benefits to such person and society that would result from such  
481 person's continued incarceration, and (C) such person has demonstrated  
482 substantial rehabilitation since the date such crime or crimes were  
483 committed considering such person's character, background and  
484 history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but not limited to, such  
485 person's correctional record, the age and circumstances of such person  
486 as of the date of the commission of the crime or crimes, whether such  
487 person has demonstrated remorse and increased maturity since the date  
488 of the commission of the crime or crimes, such person's contributions to  
489 the welfare of other persons through service, such person's efforts to  
490 overcome substance abuse, addiction, trauma, lack of education or  
491 obstacles that such person may have faced as a person who was under  
492 twenty-one years of age in the adult correctional system, the  
493 opportunities for rehabilitation in the adult correctional system,  
494 whether the person has also applied for or received a sentence

495 modification and the overall degree of such person's rehabilitation  
496 considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or crimes.

497 (5) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
498 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that  
499 continued confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such  
500 person's suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date to be  
501 determined at the discretion of the board, but not earlier than two years  
502 after the date of its decision.

503 (6) The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be subject  
504 to appeal.

505 (h) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "domestic violence", "sexual  
506 assault", "stalking", "trafficking in persons" and "contributing factor"  
507 have the same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a,  
508 as amended by this act.

509 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (g), inclusive,  
510 of this section, any person who is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual  
511 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons and for whom domestic  
512 violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a  
513 contributing factor in the commission of such person's offense or  
514 conviction, and who received a definite sentence or total effective  
515 sentence of more than ten years, may submit an application for a parole  
516 suitability hearing before a panel of the Board of Pardons and Paroles  
517 for the institution in which such person is confined, provided (A) if such  
518 person is serving a sentence of fifty years or less, such person shall be  
519 eligible for parole after sixty per cent of the sentence or twelve years,  
520 whichever is greater, or (B) if such person is serving a sentence of more  
521 than fifty years, such person shall be eligible for parole after serving  
522 thirty years. A person shall have the opportunity to apply for parole  
523 under this subsection regardless of whether or not evidence regarding  
524 such person's survival of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
525 trafficking in persons had been presented or disclosed at such person's

526 trial, sentencing hearing or any previous application for parole. Nothing  
527 in this subsection shall limit a person's eligibility for parole release  
528 under the provisions of subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section if  
529 such person would be eligible for parole release at an earlier date under  
530 any such provision.

531 (3) At the time of application for a parole suitability hearing under  
532 this subsection, the person shall submit at least two pieces of  
533 documented proof, which may include, but not be limited to,  
534 documentation described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section  
535 53a-35a, as amended by this act, corroborating the person's claim that  
536 such person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking  
537 or trafficking in persons.

538 (4) If the board finds that the person's documented proof complies  
539 with the requirements of subdivision (3) of this subsection, the board  
540 shall grant the person a parole suitability hearing not later than one  
541 hundred twenty days after such finding to aid the board in determining  
542 whether the person should be released on parole.

543 (5) At the parole suitability hearing, the board shall allow the person  
544 to present additional evidence to demonstrate that such person is a  
545 survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in  
546 persons and that domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
547 trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of  
548 such person's offense. The board may request testimony from mental  
549 health professionals or other relevant witnesses as the board sees fit.

550 (6) At such hearing, the board shall give substantial weight to any  
551 evidence that (A) the person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual  
552 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) domestic violence,  
553 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a contributing  
554 factor in the commission of the offense, in determining parole suitability  
555 as it may pertain to (i) whether there is a reasonable probability that  
556 such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the law,

557 and (ii) whether the benefits to such person and society that would  
558 result from such person's release to community supervision  
559 substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and society that  
560 would result from such person's continued incarceration.

561 (7) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
562 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that the  
563 person is suitable for parole under this subsection, the board may allow  
564 such person to go at large on parole with respect to any portion of a  
565 sentence that was based on an offense or offenses committed for which  
566 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was  
567 a contributing factor. If the board determines that continued  
568 confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such person's  
569 suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date not earlier than two  
570 years after the date of the board's decision.

571 [(h)] (i) Any person released on parole under this section shall remain  
572 in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and be subject to  
573 supervision by personnel of the Department of Correction during such  
574 person's period of parole.

575 (j) Nothing in subsection (h) of this section shall preclude a defendant  
576 from seeking relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as amended by  
577 this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a, as amended  
578 by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence reduction or relief.

579 (k) Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Board  
580 of Pardons and Parole shall report on its Internet web site information  
581 from the previous calendar year relevant to the use of subsection (h) of  
582 this section, as a basis for parole relief, including, but not limited to: (1)  
583 The number of applications submitted pursuant to subsection (h) of this  
584 section, and (2) the number of applications that were granted parole  
585 pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

586 Sec. 4. Section 54-130a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
587 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

588 (a) Jurisdiction over the granting of, and the authority to grant,  
589 commutations of punishment or releases, conditioned or absolute, in the  
590 case of any person convicted of any offense against the state and  
591 commutations from the penalty of death shall be vested in the Board of  
592 Pardons and Paroles.

593 (b) The board shall have authority to grant pardons, conditioned,  
594 provisional or absolute, or certificates of rehabilitation for any offense  
595 against the state at any time after the imposition and before or after the  
596 service of any sentence.

597 (c) The board may accept an application for a pardon three years after  
598 an applicant's conviction of a misdemeanor or violation and five years  
599 after an applicant's conviction of a felony, except that the board, upon a  
600 finding of extraordinary circumstances, may accept an application for a  
601 pardon prior to such dates.

602 (d) Prior to holding a session to consider whether to grant any  
603 commutation of punishment, release or pardon in the case of any person  
604 convicted of any offense against the state, the board shall, upon written  
605 request, provide the state's attorney for the jurisdictional district in  
606 which any conviction for such offense was obtained with a copy of the  
607 convicted person's application, any materials and documentation filed  
608 in support thereof, except for any information contained in the  
609 application, materials and documentation that are confidential,  
610 privileged and nondisclosable pursuant to state or federal law, any  
611 information obtained by the board about the convicted person pursuant  
612 to section 54-130c, and shall permit such state's attorney, or such state's  
613 attorney's designee, to appear at such session for the purpose of making  
614 a statement for the record concerning whether the convicted person  
615 should be granted any such commutation of punishment, release or  
616 pardon.

617 (e) Whenever the board grants an absolute pardon to any person, the  
618 board shall cause notification of such pardon to be made in writing to

619 the clerk of the court in which such person was convicted, or the Office  
620 of the Chief Court Administrator if such person was convicted in the  
621 Court of Common Pleas, the Circuit Court, a municipal court, or a trial  
622 justice court.

623 (f) Whenever the board grants a provisional pardon or a certificate of  
624 rehabilitation to any person, the board shall cause notification of such  
625 provisional pardon or certificate of rehabilitation to be made in writing  
626 to the clerk of the court in which such person was convicted. The  
627 granting of a provisional pardon or a certificate of rehabilitation does  
628 not entitle such person to erasure of the record of the conviction of the  
629 offense or relieve such person from disclosing the existence of such  
630 conviction as may be required.

631 (g) In the case of any person convicted of a violation for which a  
632 sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, the board shall  
633 have authority to grant a pardon, conditioned, provisional or absolute,  
634 or a certificate of rehabilitation in the same manner as in the case of any  
635 person convicted of an offense against the state.

636 (h) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "domestic violence", "sexual  
637 assault", "stalking", "trafficking in persons" and "contributing factor"  
638 have the same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a,  
639 as amended by this act.

640 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f), inclusive,  
641 of this section, the board shall accept applications for commutations of  
642 sentences from any person, including any person who is not otherwise  
643 eligible for sentence commutation, (A) if such person is a survivor of  
644 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and  
645 (B) for whom domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
646 in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of such person's  
647 offense. An applicant shall have the opportunity to apply for  
648 commutation under this subsection regardless of whether or not  
649 evidence regarding such person's survival of domestic violence, sexual

650 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons had been presented or  
651 disclosed at such person's trial, sentencing hearing or any application  
652 for parole.

653 (3) At the time of application for sentence commutation under this  
654 subsection, the applicant shall submit at least two pieces of documented  
655 proof, which may include, but need not be limited to, documentation  
656 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
657 amended by this act, corroborating the applicant's claim that such  
658 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
659 trafficking in persons.

660 (4) The board shall review any such application and the board shall  
661 give substantial weight to any evidence that (A) the applicant is a  
662 survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in  
663 persons, and (B) domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
664 in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of the offense for  
665 which the applicant is seeking sentence commutation.

666 (5) The board may hold a hearing to aid the board in determining  
667 whether the applicant's survival of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
668 stalking or trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the  
669 commission of the applicant's offense. At such hearing, the board shall  
670 allow the applicant to present relevant additional evidence. The board  
671 may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
672 relevant witnesses, as the board sees fit.

673 (i) Nothing in subsection (h) of this section shall preclude a defendant  
674 from seeking relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as amended by  
675 this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a, as amended  
676 by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence reduction or relief.

677 [(h)] (j) The board shall not deny any application for a pardon, unless  
678 the board provides a statement in writing to the applicant of the factors  
679 considered when determining whether the applicant qualified for the  
680 pardon and an explanation as to which factors were not satisfied. For

681 any application submitted pursuant to subsection (h) of this section, the  
 682 board shall articulate for the record the board's decision and the reasons  
 683 for the decision to grant or deny commutation of sentence.

684 (k) Not later than January 15, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Board  
 685 of Pardons and Parole shall report on its Internet web site information  
 686 from the previous calendar year relevant to the use of subsection (h) of  
 687 this section as a basis for commutation of a sentence, including, but not  
 688 limited to: (1) The number of applications submitted pursuant to  
 689 subsection (h) of this section, and (2) the number of applications that  
 690 were granted commutation pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

691 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) Not later than January 15,  
 692 2026, and annually thereafter, the executive director of the Court  
 693 Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch shall report on its  
 694 Internet web site information from the previous calendar year relevant  
 695 to sentencing relief provided on the basis that domestic violence,  
 696 stalking or trafficking in persons was found to be a contributing factor  
 697 to the commission of a defendant's offense, including, but not limited  
 698 to, (1) the number of defendants in each judicial district who were  
 699 granted a lesser sentence pursuant to subsection (b) of section 53a-35a  
 700 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) the number of  
 701 defendants in each judicial district who applied for sentencing  
 702 modification pursuant to subsection (g) of section 53a-39 of the general  
 703 statutes, as amended by this act, and (3) the number of defendants  
 704 granted sentencing modification pursuant to subsection (g) of section  
 705 53a-39 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-35a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-39
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	54-125a
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	54-130a
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To permit survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons for whom violence or abuse suffered by such survivors was a contributing factor influencing such survivor to commit an offense to be eligible for a sentence reduction or relief.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*