



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1503

January Session, 2025



AN ACT INCENTIVIZING EDUCATIONAL AND WORKFORCE ACHIEVEMENT AS A MEANS OF REDUCING A PROBATIONER'S TERM OF SUPERVISION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 53a-29 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) The court may sentence a person to a period of probation upon
4 conviction of any crime, other than a class A felony, if it is of the opinion
5 that: (1) Present or extended institutional confinement of the defendant
6 is not necessary for the protection of the public; (2) the defendant is in
7 need of guidance, training or assistance which, in the defendant's case,
8 can be effectively administered through probation supervision; and (3)
9 such disposition is not inconsistent with the ends of justice.

10 (b) The court may impose a sentence of conditional discharge for an
11 offense, other than a class A felony, if it is of the opinion that: (1) Present
12 or extended institutional confinement of the defendant is not necessary
13 for the protection of the public; and (2) probation supervision is not
14 appropriate.

15 (c) When the court imposes a sentence of conditional discharge, the
16 defendant shall be released with respect to the conviction for which the

17 sentence is imposed but shall be subject, during the period of such
18 conditional discharge, to such conditions as the court may determine.
19 The court shall impose the period of conditional discharge authorized
20 by subsection (d) of this section and shall specify, in accordance with
21 section 53a-30, the conditions to be complied with. When a person is
22 sentenced to a period of probation, the court shall impose the period
23 authorized by subsection (d), (e) or (f) of this section and may impose
24 any conditions authorized by section 53a-30. When a person is
25 sentenced to a period of probation, such person shall pay to the court a
26 fee of two hundred dollars and shall be placed under the supervision of
27 the Court Support Services Division, provided, if such person is
28 sentenced to a term of imprisonment the execution of which is not
29 suspended entirely, payment of such fee shall not be required until such
30 person is released from confinement and begins the period of probation
31 supervision.

32 (d) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, the period of
33 probation or conditional discharge, unless terminated sooner as
34 provided in section 53a-32 or 53a-33, shall be as follows: (1) For a class
35 B felony, not more than five years; (2) for a class C, D or E felony or an
36 unclassified felony, not more than three years; (3) for a class A
37 misdemeanor, not more than two years; (4) for a class B, C or D
38 misdemeanor, not more than one year; and (5) for an unclassified
39 misdemeanor, not more than one year if the authorized sentence of
40 imprisonment is six months or less, or not more than two years if the
41 authorized sentence of imprisonment is in excess of six months, or
42 where the defendant is charged with failure to provide subsistence for
43 dependents, a determinate or indeterminate period.

44 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section,
45 the court may, in its discretion, on a case by case basis, sentence a person
46 to a period of probation which period, unless terminated sooner as
47 provided in section 53a-32 or 53a-33, shall be as follows: (1) For a class
48 C, D or E felony or an unclassified felony, not more than five years; (2)
49 for a class A misdemeanor, not more than three years; and (3) for a class
50 B misdemeanor, not more than two years.

51 (f) The period of probation, unless terminated sooner as provided in
52 section 53a-32, shall be not less than ten years or more than thirty-five
53 years for conviction of a violation of section 53a-70b of the general
54 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or subdivision (2)
55 of subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-
56 72a, 53a-72b, 53a-90a or subdivision (2), (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of
57 section 53a-189a, or section 53a-196b, 53a-196c, 53a-196d, 53a-196e or
58 53a-196f.

59 (g) Whenever the court sentences a person, on or after October 1,
60 2008, to a period of probation of more than two years for a class C, D or
61 E felony or an unclassified felony or more than one year for a class A or
62 B misdemeanor, the probation officer supervising such person shall
63 submit a report to the sentencing court, the state's attorney and the
64 attorney of record, if any, for such person, not later than sixty days prior
65 to the date such person completes two years of such person's period of
66 probation for such felony or one year of such person's period of
67 probation for such misdemeanor setting forth such person's (1) progress
68 in addressing such person's assessed needs and complying with the
69 conditions of such person's probation, and (2) educational and
70 workforce achievements, if appropriate. The probation officer shall
71 recommend, in accordance with guidelines developed by the Judicial
72 Branch, whether such person's sentence of probation should be
73 continued for the duration of the original period of probation or be
74 terminated. If such person is serving a period of probation concurrent
75 with another period of probation, the probation officer shall submit a
76 report only when such person becomes eligible for termination of the
77 period of probation with the latest return date, at which time all of such
78 person's probation cases shall be presented to the court for review. Not
79 later than sixty days after receipt of such report, the sentencing court
80 shall continue the sentence of probation or terminate the sentence of
81 probation. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 53a-32, the parties
82 may agree to waive the requirement of a court hearing. The Court
83 Support Services Division shall establish within its policy and
84 procedures a requirement that any victim be notified whenever a

85 person's sentence of probation may be terminated pursuant to this
86 subsection. The sentencing court shall permit such victim to appear
87 before the sentencing court for the purpose of making a statement for
88 the record concerning whether such person's sentence of probation
89 should be terminated. In lieu of such appearance, the victim may submit
90 a written statement to the sentencing court and the sentencing court
91 shall make such statement a part of the record. Prior to ordering that
92 such person's sentence of probation be continued or terminated, the
93 sentencing court shall consider the statement made or submitted by
94 such victim.

95 (h) For the purposes of this section, a motor vehicle violation for
96 which a sentence to a term of imprisonment of more than one year may
97 be imposed shall be deemed an unclassified felony.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	53a-29

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*