

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5565 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAWS OF

Title: THIS STATE.

Vote Date: 3/30/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/18/2026

File No.: 601

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This is a Judiciary Committee contingency reserve bill to study the civil and criminal laws in Connecticut.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Office of the Chief Public Defender:

Attorney Del Prete Sullivan submitted online testimony on behalf of the Office of the Chief Public Defender (OCPD) in support of the bill. However, she requested that the OCPD serve as a member of the working group, citing their experience in the law and work with the Connecticut Innocence Project. She also requested including additional laws in the working group's review regarding driving under the influence, such as the requirement to install ignition interlock devices, removing the requirement for an ignition interlock device on someone who has charges dropped but does not complete a diversionary program, laws regarding commercial driver's licenses of those charged, clarifying jail credit, and studying the feasibility of awarding day-for-day jail credit on each docket a person is incarcerated. She suggests that these additional statutes need review as the changes will create more fairness and clarity for public defender clients and all those charged.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Daniel Erwin, President, Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (CCDLA):

Mr. Erwin submitted testimony in support of the bill, citing the testimony of the OCPD. He requested that CCDLA receive a membership on the working group as well, also citing their

broad scope of experience in the law, and supports the additional laws that the OCPD would like included in the working group's focus.

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut

(ACLU-CT): Ms. Zaccagnino submitted testimony in support of the bill. She wrote that the ACLU-CT believes reviewing and removing certain laws is an important step in ending mass incarceration and eliminating systemic racism in the criminal legal system. She also suggested that the language of this bill be amended so that formerly incarcerated people are included and represented in the membership of the working group.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Catherine M. Thomas

Date: April 7, 2026