



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 278**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS TO ADDRESS MILITARY INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 46b-15 of the 2026 supplement to  
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4 (b) The application form shall allow the applicant, at the applicant's  
5 option, to indicate whether the respondent holds a permit to carry a  
6 pistol or revolver, an eligibility certificate for a pistol or revolver, a long  
7 gun eligibility certificate or an ammunition certificate or possesses one  
8 or more firearms or ammunition. The application shall be accompanied  
9 by an affidavit made under oath which includes a brief statement of the  
10 conditions from which relief is sought. Upon receipt of the application  
11 the court shall order that a hearing on the application be held not later  
12 than fourteen days from the date of the order except that, if the  
13 application indicates that the respondent holds a permit to carry a pistol  
14 or revolver, an eligibility certificate for a pistol or revolver, a long gun  
15 eligibility certificate or an ammunition certificate or possesses one or  
16 more firearms or ammunition, and the court orders an ex parte order,  
17 the court shall order that a hearing be held on the application not later  
18 than seven days from the date on which the ex parte order is issued. The  
19 court, in its discretion, may make such orders as it deems appropriate

20 for the protection of the applicant and such dependent children or other  
21 persons as the court sees fit. In making such orders ex parte, the court,  
22 in its discretion, may consider relevant court records if the records are  
23 available to the public from a clerk of the Superior Court or on the  
24 Judicial Branch's Internet web site. In addition, at the time of the  
25 hearing, the court, in its discretion, may also consider a report prepared  
26 by the family services unit of the Judicial Branch, provided the person  
27 who prepared such report is available to testify at the hearing and is  
28 subject to cross examination. The report may include, as available: Any  
29 existing or prior orders of protection obtained from the [protection  
30 order] registry of protective orders maintained pursuant to section 51-  
31 5c, as amended by this act, including any military protective orders  
32 contained in such registry; information on any pending criminal case or  
33 past criminal case in which the respondent was convicted of a violent  
34 crime; any outstanding arrest warrant for the respondent; and the  
35 respondent's level of risk based on a risk assessment tool utilized by the  
36 Court Support Services Division. The report may also include  
37 information pertaining to any pending or disposed family matters case  
38 involving the applicant and respondent. Any report provided by the  
39 Court Support Services Division to the court shall also be provided to  
40 the applicant and respondent. Such orders may include temporary child  
41 custody or visitation rights, and such relief may include, but is not  
42 limited to, an order enjoining the respondent from (1) imposing any  
43 restraint upon the person or liberty of the applicant; (2) threatening,  
44 harassing, assaulting, molesting, sexually assaulting or attacking the  
45 applicant; or (3) entering the family dwelling or the dwelling of the  
46 applicant. Such order may include provisions necessary to protect any  
47 animal owned or kept by the applicant including, but not limited to, an  
48 order enjoining the respondent from injuring or threatening to injure  
49 such animal. If an applicant alleges an immediate and present physical  
50 danger to the applicant, the court may issue an ex parte order granting  
51 such relief as it deems appropriate. If a postponement of a hearing on  
52 the application is requested by either party and granted, the ex parte  
53 order shall not be continued except upon agreement of the parties or by  
54 order of the court for good cause shown. If a hearing on the application

55 is scheduled or an ex parte order is granted and the court is closed on  
56 the scheduled hearing date, the hearing shall be held on the next day the  
57 court is open and any such ex parte order shall remain in effect until the  
58 date of such hearing. If the applicant is under eighteen years of age, a  
59 parent, guardian or responsible adult who brings the application as next  
60 friend of the applicant may not speak on the applicant's behalf at such  
61 hearing unless there is good cause shown as to why the applicant is  
62 unable to speak on his or her own behalf, except that nothing in this  
63 subsection shall preclude such parent, guardian or responsible adult  
64 from testifying as a witness at such hearing. As used in this subsection,  
65 "violent crime" includes: (A) An incident resulting in physical harm,  
66 bodily injury or assault; (B) an act of threatened violence that constitutes  
67 fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury or assault, including, but  
68 not limited to, stalking or a pattern of threatening; (C) verbal abuse or  
69 argument if there is a present danger and likelihood that physical  
70 violence will occur; and (D) cruelty to animals as set forth in section 53-  
71 247, and "military protective order" means a protective order issued by  
72 a commanding officer in the armed forces of the United States or the  
73 Connecticut National Guard against a person under such officer's  
74 command.

75 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 46b-16a of the general statutes is  
76 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
77 *1, 2026*):

78 (b) The application shall be accompanied by an affidavit made by the  
79 applicant under oath that includes a statement of the specific facts that  
80 form the basis for relief. If the applicant attests that disclosure of the  
81 applicant's location information would jeopardize the health, safety or  
82 liberty of the applicant or the applicant's children, the applicant may  
83 request, on a form prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator, that his  
84 or her location information not be disclosed. Upon receipt of the  
85 application, if the allegations set forth in the affidavit meet the  
86 requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the court shall schedule a  
87 hearing not later than fourteen days from the date of the application. If  
88 a postponement of a hearing on the application is requested by either

89 party, no ex parte order shall be continued except upon agreement of  
90 the parties or by order of the court for good cause shown. If the court is  
91 closed on the scheduled hearing date, the hearing shall be held on the  
92 next day the court is open and any ex parte order that was issued shall  
93 remain in effect until the date of such hearing. If the applicant is under  
94 eighteen years of age, a parent, guardian or responsible adult who  
95 brings the application as next friend of the applicant may not speak on  
96 the applicant's behalf at such hearing unless there is good cause shown  
97 as to why the applicant is unable to speak on his or her own behalf,  
98 except that nothing in this subsection shall preclude such parent,  
99 guardian or responsible adult from testifying as a witness at such  
100 hearing. If the court finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe  
101 that the respondent has committed acts constituting grounds for  
102 issuance of an order under this section and will continue to commit such  
103 acts, or acts designed to intimidate or retaliate against the applicant, the  
104 court, in its discretion, may make such orders as it deems appropriate  
105 for the protection of the applicant. If the court finds that there are  
106 reasonable grounds to believe that an imminent danger exists to the  
107 applicant, the court may issue an ex parte order granting such relief as  
108 it deems appropriate. In making such orders, the court, in its discretion,  
109 may consider relevant court records if the records are available to the  
110 public from a clerk of the Superior Court or on the Judicial Branch's  
111 Internet web site, as well as any existing or prior military protective  
112 order that is contained in the registry of protective orders maintained  
113 pursuant to section 51-5c, as amended by this act, and that may have  
114 been obtained from such registry. Such orders may include, but are not  
115 limited to, an order enjoining the respondent from: (1) Imposing any  
116 restraint upon the person or liberty of the applicant; (2) threatening,  
117 harassing, assaulting, molesting, sexually assaulting or attacking the  
118 applicant; and (3) entering the dwelling of the applicant. As used in this  
119 subsection, "military protective order" means a protective order issued  
120 by a commanding officer in the armed forces of the United States or the  
121 Connecticut National Guard against a person under such officer's  
122 command.

123       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section,  
124 "military protective order" means a protective order issued by a  
125 commanding officer in the armed forces of the United States or the  
126 Connecticut National Guard against a person under such officer's  
127 command.

128       (b) A military protective order may be registered in this state by  
129 sending to the Superior Court in this state: (1) A letter or other document  
130 requesting registration; (2) two copies, including one certified copy, of  
131 the military protective order sought to be registered and a statement  
132 under penalty of perjury that, to the best of the knowledge and belief of  
133 the petitioner, the order has not been modified; and (3) the name and  
134 address of the person seeking registration, except if the disclosure of  
135 such name and address would jeopardize the safety of such person.

136       (c) On receipt of the documents required in subsection (b) of this  
137 section, the registering court shall: (1) Cause the military protective  
138 order to be filed, together with one copy of any accompanying  
139 documents and information, regardless of their form; and (2) cause the  
140 military protective order to be entered in the automated registry of  
141 protective orders maintained pursuant to section 51-5c of the general  
142 statutes, as amended by this act, together with any accompanying  
143 information required or permitted to be contained in the registry of  
144 protective orders pursuant to the procedures adopted by the Chief  
145 Court Administrator under section 51-5c of the general statutes, as  
146 amended by this act.

147       Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 51-5c of the 2026 supplement to the  
148 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
149 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

150       (a) The Chief Court Administrator shall establish and maintain an  
151 automated registry of protective orders that shall contain (1) protective  
152 or restraining orders issued by courts of this state, including, but not  
153 limited to, orders issued pursuant to sections 46b-15, as amended by this  
154 act, 46b-16a, as amended by this act, 46b-38c, 53a-40e, 54-1k, 54-82q and

155 54-82r, [and] (2) foreign orders of protection that have been registered  
156 in this state pursuant to section 46b-15a, and (3) military protective  
157 orders that have been registered in this state pursuant to section 3 of this  
158 act. The registry shall clearly indicate the date of commencement, the  
159 termination date, if specified, and the duration of any order contained  
160 therein. The Chief Court Administrator shall adopt policies and  
161 procedures for the operation of the registry, which shall include policies  
162 and procedures governing the disclosure of information in the registry  
163 to the judges of the Superior Court and employees of the Judicial  
164 Department.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46b-15(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46b-16a(b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	51-5c(a)

**VA**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

**JUD**