



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

**Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Judiciary Committee Listening Session
July 17, 2020**

Draft LCO #3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding **Draft LCO #3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability**. Pursuant to Section 23, the Chief Court Administrator is pleased to work with the Chief State's Attorney to prepare a plan to have a prosecutorial official review each charge in any criminal case before the case is docketed. We understand that the plan must be submitted to the Office of Policy and Management and the Judiciary Committee no later than January 1, 2021.

This is a significant change, as the current process is that law enforcement delivers arrest paperwork such as incident reports, uniform arrest reports, bond paperwork, and an inventory of seized property to the clerk's office. The clerk's office then creates a file and docketed the case. The plan will include a process by which the prosecutors will notify the clerk's office when a case should be docketed.

Judge Joan Alexander, Chief Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters, and Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo met to discuss this section of the bill. They both agreed that the success of the plan is contingent on the Criminal Information Sharing System (CISS) being operational. CISS is a comprehensive, statewide criminal justice information technology system that provides the ability to electronically share offender information within Connecticut's criminal justice community. To implement

this section of the bill, it will be necessary for every police department to transmit arrest paperwork electronically into the CISS system. This would allow the prosecutors to quickly and efficiently review the arrest paperwork and make a determination as to whether to proceed with the prosecution before docketing.

There is a particular concern with domestic violence arrests and with individuals who have been arrested and not released. Section 51-1g of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that these matters be promptly presented before the Superior Court on the next day that the court is open. Additionally, C.G.S. Section 46b-38c requires that family relations counselors provide to the court a written or oral report that includes recommendations as to whether a protective order should be imposed in criminal cases involving family violence. This report needs to be prepared so that it is available to the judge at the defendant's first court appearance. Based on these tight timelines, it is critical that the prosecutors receive the arrest information from the police departments expeditiously and electronically, so that they may determine whether to proceed with the case before the clerk's office prepares the daily docket.

We should also note that we anticipate that the plan will include recommendations to amend statutes such as the statutes governing seized property, and those requiring notification of dispositions. Such notification is sent to a number of parties including the bond insurance companies and other criminal justice agencies.

We look forward to continuing our discussions with the Chief State's Attorney on these matters and contributing to a plan that works for all involved.