



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 414

February Session, 2000

House Bill No. 5135

House of Representatives, April 4, 2000

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

An Act Establishing A Drug Court In The Hartford Judicial District.

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

1 Section 51-181b of the general statutes is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 The Chief Court Administrator shall, not later than July 1, 2001,
4 establish in the judicial district of Hartford, and may establish in any
5 geographical area court location or juvenile matters court location, a
6 docket separate from other criminal or juvenile matters for the hearing
7 of criminal or juvenile matters in which a defendant is a drug-
8 dependent person, as defined in section 21a-240. The docket in a
9 [geographical area] court location other than a juvenile matters court
10 location shall be available to, but not be limited to, offenders who are
11 sixteen to twenty-one years of age and who could benefit from
12 placement in a substance abuse treatment program.

JUD Committee Vote: Yea 40 Nay 0 JF

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Cost

Affected Agencies: Judicial Department, Division of Criminal Justice, Public Defenders, County Sheriffs

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

State Impact:

The bill could result in a cost of up to \$2.1 million to the state in FY 02 and thereafter by establishing a drug court in the Hartford Judicial District. These costs are based on the establishment of a full-time court that operates five days per week in a separate courtroom. It includes the cost of a judge, court reporter, other court staff, bail commissioner, counselor, probation officer, prosecutor, public defender staff and sheriffs. It also includes the cost of various contracted services, expenses and equipment. The cost by affected agency is listed below:

	FY 02 Cost
Judicial Department	\$ 1,771,785
Division of Criminal Justice	75,300
Public Defenders	99,235
County Sheriffs	125,190
Total	2,071,510

It should be noted that these costs are gross and do not reflect the savings that would occur in other courts by transferring cases from other courtrooms to the drug court. In addition, it is unknown if the Hartford drug court would be a full-time court or would operate part-time as is typical in the other drug courts in the state.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5135

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG COURT IN THE HARTFORD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the chief court administrator to establish a separate docket in the Hartford Judicial District by July 1, 2001 for criminal cases involving drug-dependent defendants who could benefit from substance abuse treatment.

He continues to have the authority to establish the separate docket in all geographical area and juvenile courts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

BACKGROUND***Drug Dependent Person***

A "drug dependent person" is one who has a psychoactive substance dependence on drugs as defined in the most recent edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 40 Nay 0