



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5881

February Session, 2000

An Act Concerning Civil Actions Against Crime Victims.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) Any civil action brought against a crime victim, as
2 defined in section 1-1k of the general statutes, by a defendant in a
3 criminal proceeding on account of the exercise or intended exercise by
4 such crime victim of any right guaranteed under the first amendment
5 to the United States Constitution, section 3, 4 or 14 of article first of the
6 constitution of the state or subsection b. of article twenty-ninth of the
7 amendments to the constitution of the state or any right provided to
8 such crime victim by any provision of the general statutes, shall, upon
9 motion of such crime victim, be stayed during the pendency of such
10 criminal proceeding.

11 Sec. 2. Section 53a-151 of the general statutes is repealed and the
12 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

13 (a) A person is guilty of tampering with a witness if, believing that
14 an official proceeding is pending or about to be instituted, [he] such
15 person (1) induces or attempts to induce a witness to testify falsely,
16 withhold testimony, elude legal process summoning [him] such
17 witness to testify or absent himself or herself from any official
18 proceeding, or (2) files a civil action against a witness with intent to
19 discourage such witness from exercising any right guaranteed under
20 the first amendment to the United States Constitution, section 3, 4 or 14

21 of article first of the constitution of the state or subsection b. of article
22 twenty-ninth of the amendments to the constitution of the state or any
23 right provided to such witness by any provision of the general statutes.

24 (b) Tampering with a witness is a class D felony.

JUD Committee Vote: Yea 40 Nay 0 JFS