



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

**Raised Bill No. 475**

LCO No. 1770

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***An Act Concerning Escape From Custody.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-8a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 The Commissioner of Children and Families [, at his discretion,]  
4 may authorize leave for a child convicted as delinquent committed to  
5 the Department of Children and Families and assigned to a state  
6 facility or private residential program, provided there is a reasonable  
7 belief, based on the totality of the information in the possession of the  
8 commissioner, that such child will honor the commissioner's trust and  
9 is eligible for leave under standards adopted pursuant to 17a-7a. If any  
10 such child who is granted leave under this section fails to return to  
11 such facility or program, [the] such child shall be guilty of escape from  
12 custody pursuant to section 53a-171, as amended by this act. The  
13 superintendent or director shall disclose any records created or  
14 obtained by the facility or program regarding such child [to the  
15 appropriate law enforcement agency] and necessary to facilitate the  
16 apprehension and the return of the child to the custody of the  
17 commissioner.

18 Sec. 2. Section 53a-171 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

20 (a) A person is guilty of escape from custody if [he] such person (1)  
21 escapes from custody, or (2) is under the age of eighteen, has been  
22 convicted as delinquent, has been committed to the Department of  
23 Children and Families in accordance with section 46b-141 and (A) fails  
24 to return from a leave authorized under section 17a-8a, as amended by  
25 this act, or (B) escapes from a state or private facility or institution in  
26 which such person has been assigned or placed by the Superior Court  
27 pursuant to section 46b-141 or by the Commissioner of Children and  
28 Families pursuant to section 17a-8a, as amended by this act or section  
29 46b-141.

30 (b) If a person has been arrested for, charged with or convicted of a  
31 felony, escape from such custody is a class C felony, otherwise, escape  
32 from custody is a class A misdemeanor.

**Statement of Purpose:**

To increase the authority of the Department of Children and Families and the law enforcement community to pursue more aggressive practices to return children and youth committed as delinquent to the custody of the department.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*