



General Assembly

February Session, 2000

Raised Bill No. 600

LCO No. 2555

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

An Act Concerning Escapes From Community Release Programs.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 18-100 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (e) If the Commissioner of Correction deems that the purposes of
4 this section may thus be more effectively carried out, [he] the
5 commissioner may transfer any person from one correctional
6 institution to another or to any public or private nonprofit halfway
7 house, group home or mental health facility with the concurrence of
8 the warden, superintendent or person in charge of the facility to which
9 said person is being transferred. Any inmate so transferred shall
10 remain under the jurisdiction of said commissioner. The provisions of
11 this subsection authorizing the transfer of a person to any public or
12 private nonprofit halfway house, group home or mental health facility
13 shall not be applicable to any person who has previously escaped
14 from any public or private nonprofit halfway house, group home or
15 mental health facility or community residence to which such person
16 was transferred pursuant to this subsection or section 18-100c, as

17 amended by this act, if such person was in the custody of the
18 Commissioner of Correction or was required to be returned to the
19 custody of said commissioner upon such person's release from such
20 facility.

21 Sec. 2. Section 18-100c of the general statutes is repealed and the
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

23 A person convicted of a crime who is incarcerated on or after July 1,
24 1993, who received a definite sentence of two years or less, and who
25 has been confined under such sentence for not less than one-half of the
26 sentence imposed by the court, less such time as may have been earned
27 under the provisions of section 18-7, 18-7a, 18-98a, 18-98b or 18-98d,
28 may be released pursuant to subsection (e) of section 18-100, as
29 amended by this act, or to any other community correction program
30 approved by the Commissioner of Correction. The provisions of this
31 section shall not be applicable to any person who has previously
32 escaped from any public or private nonprofit halfway house, group
33 home or mental health facility or community residence to which such
34 person was transferred pursuant to subsection (e) of section 18-100, as
35 amended by this act, or this section, if such person was in the custody
36 of the Commissioner of Correction or was required to be returned to
37 the custody of said commissioner upon such person's release from
38 such facility.

39 Sec. 3. (NEW) An inmate's eligibility to be released from
40 confinement to a public or private, nonprofit halfway house, group
41 home or mental health facility or other community correction program
42 pursuant to subsection (e) of section 18-100 of the general statutes, as
43 amended by this act, or section 18-100c of the general statutes, as
44 amended by this act, shall be determined by a committee at each
45 correctional institution responsible for the classification of inmates
46 according to their risk. A decision by such committee that an inmate is
47 ineligible for release may not be overruled by the warden of such
48 correctional institution.

49 Sec. 4. (NEW) (a) There is established a Fugitive Task Force within
50 the Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety.

51 (b) The task force shall be responsible for the apprehension of
52 persons charged with a violation of section 53a-169 of the general
53 statutes.

54 (c) The task force may request and may receive from any federal,
55 state or local agency, cooperation and assistance in the performance of
56 its duties, including the temporary assignment of personnel necessary
57 to carry out the performance of its functions.

58 (d) The task force may enter into mutual assistance and cooperation
59 agreements with other states pertaining to the apprehension of
60 fugitives extending across state boundaries and may consult and
61 exchange information and personnel with agencies of other states with
62 reference to matters of mutual concern with respect to the
63 apprehension of fugitives.

64 (e) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall appoint a commanding
65 officer and other personnel as the commissioner deems necessary for
66 the duties of the task force.

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce the number of prisoners escaping from halfway houses and other community release programs by limiting the eligibility of prisoners for such programs, prohibiting the warden of a correctional institution overruling the decision of the classification committee denying community release to a prisoner and establishing a State Police Fugitive Task Force.

[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.]