



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6976**

*January Session, 2001*

**AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) There shall be a state-wide public awareness  
2 campaign to educate, inform and identify resources for the general  
3 public about crime victim's rights and services. The public awareness  
4 campaign shall be planned, designed and implemented by the Office  
5 of Policy and Management in conjunction with representatives of the  
6 Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., Connecticut Coalition  
7 Against Domestic Violence, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and  
8 Survivors of Homicide.

9 Sec. 2. Subdivision (17) of subsection (b) of section 54-203 of the  
10 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
11 thereof:

12 (17) To provide a mandatory annual training program for judges,  
13 prosecutors, victim advocates, as defined in section 54-220, police,  
14 probation and parole personnel, bail commissioners, officers from the  
15 Department of Correction and judicial marshals to inform them of  
16 victims' rights and available services. The Office of Victim Services  
17 shall plan, design and implement such training in consultation with  
18 representatives of sexual assault victims, domestic violence victims,  
19 victims of drunk drivers and homicide victims.

20 Sec. 3. Section 54-222a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

22 (a) Whenever a peace officer determines that a crime has been  
23 committed, such officer shall render immediate assistance to any  
24 victim of such crime including obtaining medical assistance for any  
25 such victim if such assistance is required [,] and shall present a [card]  
26 form prepared by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator to a  
27 victim [who has suffered physical injury] of crime informing the victim  
28 of services available and the rights of victims in this state. [and] The  
29 peace officer shall inform the victim of crime of the rights of victims in  
30 this state. Such form shall be made available in both English and  
31 Spanish. Such peace officer shall refer the victim of crime to the Office  
32 of Victim Services for additional information on rights and services.

33 (b) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt regulations, in  
34 accordance with chapter 54, to implement the provisions of subsection  
35 (a) of this section.

36 Sec. 4. Section 46a-13c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
37 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

38 The Victim Advocate may, within available appropriations:

39 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to victims by state agencies and  
40 those entities that provide services to victims, including the delivery of  
41 services to families of victims by the Office of the Chief Medical  
42 Examiner;

43 (2) Coordinate and cooperate with other private and public agencies  
44 concerned with the implementation, monitoring and enforcement of  
45 the constitutional rights of victims and enter into cooperative  
46 agreements with public or private agencies for the furtherance of the  
47 constitutional rights of victims;

48 (3) Review the procedures established by any state agency or other  
49 entity providing services to victims with respect to the constitutional

50 rights of victims;

51 (4) Receive and review complaints of persons concerning the actions  
52 of any state or other entity providing services to victims and  
53 investigate those where it appears that a victim or family of a victim  
54 may be in need of assistance from the Victim Advocate;

55 (5) File a limited special appearance in any court proceeding for the  
56 purpose of advocating for a victim:

57 (A) The right to notification of court proceedings;

58 (B) The right to attend the trial and all other court proceedings the  
59 accused has the right to attend, unless such person is to testify and the  
60 court determines that such person's testimony would be materially  
61 affected if such person hears other testimony;

62 (C) The right to object to or support any plea agreement entered into  
63 by the accused and the prosecution and to make a statement to the  
64 court prior to the acceptance by the court of the plea of guilty or nolo  
65 contendere by the accused;

66 (D) The right to make a statement to the court at sentencing;

67 (E) The right to restitution which shall be enforceable in the same  
68 manner as any other cause of action or as otherwise provided by law;  
69 and

70 (F) The right to information about the arrest, conviction, sentence,  
71 imprisonment and release of the accused;

72 (6) Ensure a centralized location for victim services information;

73 (7) Recommend changes in state policies concerning victims,  
74 including changes in the system of providing victim services;

75 (8) Conduct programs of public education, undertake legislative  
76 advocacy, and make proposals for systemic reform;

77 (9) Monitor the provision of protective services to witnesses by the  
78 Chief State's Attorney pursuant to section 54-82t; [and]

79 (10) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the  
80 Office of the Victim Advocate, the purpose of the office and  
81 procedures to contact the office; and

82 (11) Develop, in consultation with public and private agencies that  
83 receive state and federal funds to deliver services to victims of crime,  
84 uniform reporting standards for data to assess and evaluate the  
85 effectiveness of victim service systems. Data shall include information  
86 about compensation and other benefits and information about  
87 resources and services available to victims of crime, including  
88 counseling and advocacy.

89 Sec. 5. (NEW) The Office of Policy and Management shall contract  
90 with (1) the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence for  
91 domestic violence education and community outreach coordinators  
92 and sexual assault education and community outreach coordinators;  
93 (2) the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. for sexual  
94 assault education and community outreach coordinators; (3) the  
95 Survivors of Homicide for an education and prevention specialist; and  
96 (4) Mothers Against Drunk Driving for youth coordinators. Such  
97 education and outreach coordinators shall promote community safety  
98 by providing age and culturally appropriate risk information, primary  
99 prevention education and information about services and rights to  
100 members of the general public and crime victims.

101 Sec. 6. The sum of three million nine hundred thousand dollars is  
102 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management, from the  
103 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for grants of  
104 nine hundred thousand dollars to the Connecticut Coalition Against  
105 Domestic Violence, one million three hundred thousand dollars to the  
106 Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., one million one  
107 hundred thousand dollars to Mothers Against Drunk Driving and six  
108 hundred thousand dollars to the Survivors of Homicide for the

109 purposes of this act. Such appropriations shall be used to supplement  
110 and not supplant existing funding.

111 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**      *Joint Favorable*