



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 7026

LCO No. 5322

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING STATUTORY OATHS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 1-23 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 When any person, required to take an oath, [from scruples of
4 conscience] declines to take it in the usual form or when the court is
5 satisfied that any person called as a witness does not believe in the
6 existence of a Supreme Being, a solemn affirmation may be
7 administered to [him] such person in the form of the oath prescribed,
8 except that instead of the word "swear" the words ["solemnly and
9 sincerely affirm and declare"] "solemnly and sincerely affirm" shall be
10 used and instead of the words "so help you God" the words "upon [the
11 pains and penalties] penalty of perjury [or false statement]" shall be
12 used.

13 Sec. 2. Section 1-25 of the general statutes is repealed and the
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

15 The forms of oaths shall be as follows, to wit:

16 FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, EXECUTIVE
17 AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

18 You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
19 support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of
20 the state of Connecticut, so long as you continue a citizen thereof; and
21 that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the
22 office of to the best of your abilities; so help you God.

23 FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC.

24 You [do] solemnly swear [(or affirm, as the case may be)] or
25 solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will
26 support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of
27 the state of Connecticut; and that you will faithfully discharge,
28 according to law, the duties of the office of notary public to the best of
29 your abilities; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

30 FOR ELECTORS.

31 You solemnly swear [(or affirm, as the case may be)] or solemnly
32 and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will [be true and
33 faithful to the constitutions and governments of the State of
34 Connecticut and the United States of America] support the
35 Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of

36 Connecticut; that the statements made in your application for
37 admission as an elector are true and complete; and that [your
38 privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction] you
39 have never been convicted of a felony; so help you God or upon
40 penalty of perjury.

41

FOR ATTORNEYS.

42 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will do
43 no falsehood, nor consent to any to be done in court, and, if you know
44 of any to be done, you will give information thereof to the judges, or
45 one of them, that it may be reformed; you will not wittingly or
46 willingly promote, sue or cause to be sued, any false or unlawful suit,
47 or give aid, or consent, to the same; you will delay no person for lucre
48 or malice; but will exercise the office of attorney, within the court
49 wherein you may practice, according to the best of your learning and
50 discretion, and with fidelity, as well to the court as to your client; so
51 help you God.]

52 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
53 may be, that you will do nothing dishonest, and will not knowingly
54 allow anything dishonest to be done, in court, and that you will inform
55 the court of any dishonesty of which you have knowledge; that you
56 will not knowingly maintain or assist in maintaining any cause of
57 action that is false or unlawful; that you will not obstruct any cause of
58 action for personal gain or malice; but that you will exercise the office
59 of attorney, in any court in which you may practice, according to the
60 best of your learning and judgment, faithfully, to both your client and
61 the court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

62

[FOR GRAND JURORS IMPANELED IN COURT.

63 You solemnly swear by the name of the ever-living God, (or affirm,
64 as the case may be) that you will diligently inquire after, and due
65 presentment make, of all breaches of law that shall come to your
66 knowledge, according to your charge; the secrets of the cause, your
67 own, and your fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will
68 present no person from envy, hatred or malice; neither will you leave
69 any person unrepresented, from love, fear or affection, or in hope of
70 reward; but you will present cases truly, as they come to your
71 knowledge, according to the best of your understanding and according
72 to law; so help you God.]

73

FOR PETIT JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

74 [You solemnly swear by the name of the ever-living God, (or affirm,
75 as the case may be) that you will, without respect of persons or favor
76 of any person, well and truly try, and true deliverance make, between
77 the state of Connecticut and the defendant, whom you shall have in
78 charge, according to law and the evidence before you; your own
79 counsel, and your fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will
80 speak nothing, to any one, of the business or matters you have in hand,
81 but among yourselves, nor will you suffer any one to speak to you
82 about the same, but in court; so help you God.]

83 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
84 may be, that you will, without respect of any persons or favor of any
85 person, decide this case between the state of Connecticut and the
86 defendant (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on
87 the laws of this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk
88 to each other about this case until instructed to do so and that you will

89 not speak to anyone else about this case until it is over; and that when
90 you reach a verdict, you will keep it secret until the verdict is
91 announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

92 FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

93 [You solemnly swear by the name of the ever-living God, (or affirm,
94 as the case may be) that, if called upon to become a member of the jury
95 to determine this cause, you will, without respect of persons or favor
96 of any person, well and truly try, and true deliverance make, between
97 the state of Connecticut and the defendant, whom you shall have in
98 charge, according to law and the evidence before you; your own
99 counsel, and your fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will
100 speak nothing, to any one, of the business or matters you have in hand,
101 but among yourselves, nor will you suffer any one to speak to you
102 about the same, but in court; so help you God.]

103 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
104 may be, that, if you become a member of the jury for this case, you
105 will, without respect of any persons or favor of any person, decide this
106 case between the state of Connecticut and the defendant (or
107 defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of
108 this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other
109 about this case until instructed to do so and that you will not speak to
110 anyone else about this case until it is over; and that when you reach a
111 verdict, you will keep it secret until it is announced in court; so help
112 you God or upon penalty of perjury.

113 FOR JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

114 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
115 well and truly try the issue or issues, now to be given you in charge,
116 between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants),
117 according to the evidence given you in court, and the laws of this state,
118 and accordingly a true verdict give; your own counsel, and your
119 fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will speak nothing, to
120 any one, of the business or matters you have in hand, but among
121 yourselves, nor will you suffer any one to speak to you about the same,
122 but in court; and, when you are agreed upon any verdict, you will
123 keep it secret until you deliver it up in court; so help you God.]

124 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
125 may be, that you will decide this case between the plaintiff and the
126 defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants) based on the evidence given
127 in court and on the laws of this state as explained by the judge; that
128 you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so
129 and that you will not speak to anyone else about this case until it is
130 over; and that when you reach a verdict, you will keep it secret until it
131 is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

132 FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

133 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that, if called
134 upon to become a member of the jury to determine this cause, you will
135 well and truly try the issue or issues, now to be given you in charge,
136 between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants),
137 according to the evidence given you in court, and the laws of this state,
138 and accordingly a true verdict give; your own counsel, and your
139 fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will speak nothing, to
140 any one, of the business or matters you have in hand, but among

141 yourselves, nor will you suffer any one to speak to you about the same,
142 but in court; and, when you are agreed upon any verdict, you will
143 keep it secret until you deliver it up in court; so help you God.]

144 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
145 may be, that, if you become a member of the jury for this case, you will
146 decide this case between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs
147 and defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws
148 of this state as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each
149 other about this case until instructed to do so and that you will not
150 speak to anyone else about this case until it is over; and that when you
151 reach a verdict, you will keep it secret until it is announced in court; so
152 help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

153 VOIR DIRE.

154 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
155 well and truly answer such interrogatories as shall be put to you,
156 under the direction of the court, not immediately relating to the merits
157 of the cause now in question; so help you God.]

158 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
159 may be, that you will answer truthfully all questions that you are
160 asked; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury. The questions that
161 you will be asked will not be about the merits of the case for which this
162 jury is being selected.

163 FOR WITNESSES.

164 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that the
165 evidence you shall give, concerning the case now in question, shall be

166 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God.]

167 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
168 may be, that the evidence you shall give, concerning the case now in
169 question, shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth;
170 so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

171 FOR INVESTIGATORY GRAND JURY WITNESSES.

172 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
173 may be, that the evidence you shall give, concerning this investigation
174 into the commission of a crime or crimes, shall be the truth, the whole
175 truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God or upon penalty of
176 perjury.

177 FOR WITNESSES TWELVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

178 You promise that you will tell the truth.

179 FOR AN INTERPRETER IN A CRIMINAL CASE.

180 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
181 make a true interpretation of the information (or indictment) upon
182 which the accused stands charged, in the language which the accused
183 understands and can speak, and of all questions which may be
184 propounded to the accused under the direction of the court; and that
185 you will make a like true interpretation of the plea to said information
186 (or indictment) and of the answers to such questions to this court (or to
187 this court and jury), in the English language, according to your best
188 skill and judgment; so help you God.]

189 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
190 may be, that you will interpret accurately the information (or
191 indictment) that charges the accused with a crime and all questions
192 that the accused may be asked under the direction of the court in a
193 language the accused can understand and speak; that you will
194 interpret accurately the plea of the accused to the information and the
195 answers of the accused to the court (or to the court and jury) in
196 English; and that you will make all interpretations to the best of your
197 skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

198 FOR AN INTERPRETER IN COURT.

199 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
200 make a true interpretation of the oath to be administered to the
201 witness, in the language which the witness understands and can speak,
202 and of all questions which may be propounded to the witness under
203 the direction of the court; and that you will make a like true
204 interpretation of the answers to such questions to this court (or to this
205 court and jury), in the English language, according to your best skill
206 and judgment; so help you God.]

207 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
208 may be, that you will interpret accurately the oath to be administered
209 to the witness and all questions that the witness may be asked under
210 direction of the court in a language the witness can understand and
211 speak; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the witness to
212 the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make
213 all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you
214 God or upon penalty of perjury.

215 FOR AN INTERPRETER FOR A DEAF

216 OR HEARING IMPAIRED JUROR.

217 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
218 make a true interpretation to a deaf or hearing impaired juror of the
219 juror orientation program, of any oath to be administered to the juror,
220 of all testimony and other relevant colloquy, and of all questions which
221 may be propounded to the juror under the direction of the court; and
222 that you will make a like true interpretation of the juror's answers to
223 this court, in the English language, according to your best skill and
224 judgment; and that you will refrain from participating in any manner
225 in the deliberations of the jury other than making a true interpretation
226 of jurors' remarks made during deliberation, according to your best
227 skill and judgment; and that you will refrain from having
228 communications with anyone outside the jury concerning the business
229 or matters in the jurors' hands; so help you God.]

230 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
231 may be, that you will interpret accurately to a deaf or hearing impaired
232 juror the juror orientation program, any oath to be administered to the
233 juror, all testimony and other relevant conversation, and all questions
234 that the juror may be asked under the direction of the court; that you
235 will interpret accurately the answers of the juror to the court in
236 English; that you will not participate in any manner in the
237 deliberations of the jury other than making an accurate interpretation
238 of the remarks of the jurors during deliberations; that you will make all
239 interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; and that you will
240 not communicate with anyone outside the jury concerning the business
241 or matters in the hands of the jurors; so help you God or upon penalty
242 of perjury.

243 FOR ASSESSORS, TO SUBSCRIBE UPON ABSTRACT.

244 I, ..., assessor of the town of ..., do solemnly swear [(or affirm, as
245 the case may be)] or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be,
246 that I [verily] believe that all the lists, and the abstract of said town for
247 the year [19..] ..., are made up and perfected according to law; so help
248 me God or upon penalty of perjury.

249 FOR PLAINTIFF, WHEN INDIFFERENT PERSON IS DEPUTED TO
250 SERVE WRIT.

251 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you verily
252 believe the plaintiff is (or plaintiffs are) in danger of losing the debt
253 (damage or other thing) in this writ, unless an indifferent person shall
254 be deputed for the immediate service of the same; so help you God.]

255 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
256 may be, that you believe the plaintiff is (or plaintiffs are) in danger of
257 losing the debt (damage or other thing) in this writ, unless an
258 indifferent person shall be deputed for the immediate service of the
259 same; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

260 FOR MEMBERS OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

261 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
262 truly try and determine, according to the evidence given in court, the
263 matters depending between this state and the officer (or officers) now
264 to be tried; that you will not divulge the sentence of the court until the
265 same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to law;
266 neither will you, at any time, disclose the vote or opinion of any
267 member of the court, unless required by due course of law; so help you
268 God.]

269 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
270 may be, that you will decide, according to the evidence given in court,
271 this case between this state and the officer (or officers); that you will
272 keep the sentence of the court secret until it has been approved or
273 disapproved, according to law; and that you will not, at any time,
274 disclose the vote or opinion of any member of the court, unless
275 required by due course of law; so help you God or upon penalty of
276 perjury.

277 FOR THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

278 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
279 not, at any time whatever, disclose the vote or opinion of any member
280 of any court-martial in which you may be called to act, unless required
281 by due course of law, nor divulge the sentence of any such court,
282 unless the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according
283 to law; and that you will faithfully and impartially do the duty of
284 judge-advocate, according to your best ability; so help you God.]

285 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
286 may be, that you will not, at any time, disclose the vote or opinion of
287 any member of any court-martial in which you may be called to act,
288 unless required by due course of law; that you will not tell anyone the
289 sentence of any such court, unless it has been approved or
290 disapproved, according to law; and that you will faithfully and
291 impartially discharge the duty of judge-advocate, according to your
292 best ability; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

293 FOR OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO SERVE IN ANY POLLING
294 PLACE IN ANY ELECTION OR PRIMARY.

295 You solemnly swear [(or affirm, as the case may be)] or solemnly
296 and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will faithfully
297 discharge, according to law, your duties as ..., to the best of your
298 ability; and that you will serve in this election or primary as the case
299 may be, as an official, completely impartial with respect to any
300 candidate or any political party; so help you God or upon penalty of
301 perjury.

302 FOR ALL OTHER PERSONS OF WHOM AN OATH IS REQUIRED.

303 You solemnly swear [(or affirm, as the case may be)] or solemnly
304 and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will faithfully
305 discharge, according to law, your duties as ... to the best of your
306 ability; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

307 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate and update antiquated language in statutory oaths.

[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.]