AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT INNOCENCE COMMISSION.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) There is established the Connecticut Innocence Commission. Whenever the Board of Pardons or a court releases a person based upon a finding of actual innocence, the commission shall conduct an inquiry into the causes of the erroneous detention, prosecution or conviction. After diligent investigation, the commission shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to criminal law and procedure, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Chief Administrative Judge for criminal matters or a designee, who shall act as chairperson;

(2) The Chief State's Attorney or a designee;
(3) The Chief Public Defender or a designee;
(4) The Commissioner of Public Safety or a designee;
(5) The chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities or a designee;
(6) The deputy commissioner in charge of the Division of Scientific Services within the Department of Public Safety or a designee;
(7) The director of the criminal clinic at The University of Connecticut School of Law or a designee;
(8) One prosecutor appointed by the Connecticut Association of Prosecutors; and
(9) One criminal defense lawyer appointed by the members of the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

(c) Any appointment to the commission pursuant to subdivision (8) or (9) of subsection (b) of this section shall be made no later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy in such appointed position shall be filled by the appointing authority.

This act shall take effect as follows:

| Section 1 | from passage |

**Statement of Purpose:**
To provide a mechanism for investigating situations where an innocent person is found to have been wrongly detained, prosecuted or convicted, and recommending procedures for correcting such situations.