



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5753

LCO No. 2638

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT INNOCENCE COMMISSION.

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

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

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

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

14 (2) The Chief State's Attorney or a designee;

- 15 (3) The Chief Public Defender or a designee;
- 16 (4) The Commissioner of Public Safety or a designee;
- 17 (5) The chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights and
18 Opportunities or a designee;
- 19 (6) The deputy commissioner in charge of the Division of Scientific
20 Services within the Department of Public Safety or a designee;
- 21 (7) The director of the criminal clinic at The University of
22 Connecticut School of Law or a designee;
- 23 (8) One prosecutor appointed by the Connecticut Association of
24 Prosecutors; and
- 25 (9) One criminal defense lawyer appointed by the members of the
26 Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.
- 27 (c) Any appointment to the commission pursuant to subdivision (8)
28 or (9) of subsection (b) of this section shall be made no later than thirty
29 days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy in such
30 appointed position shall be filled by the appointing authority.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

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.

[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.]