



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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TESTIMONY OF
DEBORAH DeI PRETE SULLIVAN, LEGAL COUNSEL
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Raised Senate Bill No. 157
An Act Concerning Fees Charged By Court Reporters and Monitors
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - February 24, 2006

The Office of Chief Public Defender does not oppose an increase in the fee amount charged by Court Reporters and Monitors as proposed in *S.B. No. 157, An Act Concerning Fees Charged By Court Reporters and Monitors*. However, if this proposal were to pass, the Office of Chief Public Defender requests the allocation of additional resources to this agency's budget for the increase. The proposal would increase the cost to obtain a transcript of a court proceeding from the current fee of \$1.50 per transcript page to \$2.50. In addition, the proposal would increase the cost to obtain a copy of a transcript that has already been made from \$.50 per transcript page copy to \$1.00.

As a state agency, the Office of Chief Public Defender pays the statutory rate for transcripts. Although this is a reduced rate for transcripts as compared to the rate charged the public, passage of this proposal would increase this agency's expenditures for transcripts by approximately 67%. During the fiscal year of 2004-2005 the office expended a total of \$185,620 for transcripts. Had the proposed fees been in existence during the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Office of Chief Public Defender could have expended \$309,985, an increase of \$124,365.

In projecting the expenditures for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, this agency has estimated the total cost of obtaining transcripts at approximately \$190,000. An increase in the court reporter fees as proposed would result in an estimated cost of \$317,300 which represents a possible increase of \$127,300 over the current projection. Therefore, this office requests the allocation of additional resources to meet the additional costs should this bill pass.