



# State of Connecticut

## DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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### TESTIMONY OF DEBORAH DeI PRETE SULLIVAN, LEGAL COUNSEL OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

*Raised Senate Bill No.441  
An Act Concerning the Annual Report of the Chief Public Defender*

*Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 10, 2006*

The Office of Chief Public Defender requests passage of *Raised Senate Bill No. 441, An Act Concerning the Annual Report of the Chief Public Defender*. The proposal would make two changes to the timetable for submission of the Annual Report by the Chief Public Defender and the Public Defender Services Commission. Current law requires the Chief Public Defender to submit a report to the Public Defender Services Commission between August 15 and September 15 of each year and that the Commission submit its report to the Chief Justice, the Governor and the Judiciary Committee before October 15 of the same year. This proposal would require that the Chief Public Defender submit the report to the Commission prior to December 31 of each year and thereafter require submission of the Annual Report by the Commission to the Chief Justice, the Governor and the Judiciary Committee before February 1 of the subsequent year. The proposed changes in the timetable coincide with the availability of statistical and budgetary information that are necessary to compile the report.

Because the Annual Report has been submitted beyond the statutory deadlines, the practice has been criticized by the Auditors of Public Accounts for non-compliance. The proposed change would provide enough time so that all information necessary for review and inclusion be obtained to allow for the timely submission of the report by the Chief Public Defender to the Commission and the subsequent submission to the Chief Justice, the Governor and the Judiciary Committee.