



State of Connecticut

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan,
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Office of Chief Public Defender
Raised Bill No. 694 - An Act Concerning Erasure of Criminal Records
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 20, 2008

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports this legislation which would amend C.G.S. 54-142a regarding the erasure of charges. Current law provides for the erasure of charges from a person's record if the charge has been nolleed or dismissed or if the person has been found not guilty after a trial to a jury or a court.

This proposed legislation would correct an inequity which exists in the current statute which prohibits the extension of the erasure statute to those charges dismissed, nolleed or where a person has been found not guilty, if the charges are contained in a multi-count information. As an example, consider a scenario where a person is charged with 3 crimes in the same docket number, and the person pleads guilty to one charge and the remaining 2 charges are nolleed or dismissed. Current law provides that the 2 charges which were nolleed cannot be erased because the 3 charges are contained within a multi-count docket file. Yet, if a person is charged with 3 different offenses in 3 different docket numbers and pleads to 1 of the 3, the remaining 2 will be erased. This bill corrects this inequity.

Convictions and arrests, hamper the ability of a person to obtain employment and housing. This office urges this Committee to support this bill and adopt it.