



**State of Connecticut**  
**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Testimony of the Division of Criminal Justice**  
**Joint Committee on Judiciary – March 26, 2009**

- **H.B. No. 6710 An Act Concerning Court Operations**

The Division of Criminal Justice respectfully recommends the Committee's support of Section 6 of H.B. No. 6710, An Act Concerning Court Operations. Section 6 would make clear the authority of the Judicial Branch to continue its transition into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century of record keeping and document generation, filing and authentication. Although these changes would apply to civil as well as criminal cases, the Division of Criminal Justice is acutely aware of the need to continue the modernization of criminal justice information and communication systems. This legislation will be a significant step in that direction in its authorization of electronic signature of certain documents.

It is recognized that this authority extends to the signature and authentication of certain documents but does not authorize the electronic administration of oaths. In coming sessions this committee will need to address that next step. That will require a balancing of the guarantees of identity and authentication that modern data systems are capable of, the constitutional requirement that certain documents submitted must be under oath, and the need to take advantage of significant time and resource savings. These time and resource savings can be accomplished when electronic generation and transmission of documents eventually reduces or eliminates the need for paper documents with pen and ink signatures. Particularly where administration of oaths are required significant law enforcement personnel hours can be redirected to patrol and investigation when the need to bring affiant and oath administrator physically together is replaced by a secure electronic process.

The proposed bill is a significant first step to lay the foundation for consideration of other changes in the future.

In conclusion, the Division of Criminal Justice would respectfully recommend the Committee's Joint Favorable Report for H.B. No. 6710, An Act Concerning Court Operations. The Division would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to present our input and recommendations and we would be pleased to provide any additional information or respond to any questions the Committee might have.