



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 24, 2009**

Senate Bill 707, An Act Concerning Probation Supervision Fees

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to Senate Bill 707, *An Act Concerning Probation Supervision Fees*. This bill provides that payment of the probation supervision fee shall not be required until an individual is released from incarceration and is set to begin his or her period of probation supervision.

The Branch respectfully submits that this bill is not necessary. While the probation fee is currently deemed due at the time the sentence is imposed, the court often gives the defendant another date by which to pay the fee. Thus, the court has the discretion to make the fee payable at the time of sentencing - if the person can pay, at a later date - if the person needs more time to make payment, or waive it entirely if the defendant is indigent.

Additionally, the bill as drafted would be very difficult to implement. The probation fee is currently payable to the court clerk; the clerk, however, does not know when the defendant is actually released from the Department of Correction. Even if this information were to be provided to the court - through the development of new interfaces - it would still be logistically difficult to implement because it would require the clerk to keep a file open for potentially several years until the defendant is released and begins his or her period of supervision. For these reasons, we would respectfully request that the committee not act favorably on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.