



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Proposed Bill No. 6021**

LCO No. 715

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:  
REP. GONZALEZ, 3rd Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN  
THE SETTING OF BAIL IN CRIMINAL CASES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That the general statutes be amended to establish a Bail Guidelines  
2 Committee to establish bail release guidelines; that the committee shall  
3 be comprised of a representative of the Office of the Chief State's  
4 Attorney, a representative of the Office of the Chief Public Defender, a  
5 member of the Judicial Branch, a member of the Court Support  
6 Services Division, a member of the Senate and the House of  
7 Representatives from both the majority and minority parties, and a  
8 member of the Connecticut Defense Lawyers' Association; that the  
9 guidelines shall be based upon the premise that the least restrictive  
10 condition or conditions of release necessary to ensure the appearance  
11 in court of the defendant is the pretrial release alternative of choice;  
12 that the guidelines shall be based upon considerations such as the  
13 nature and circumstances of the offense insofar as they are relevant to  
14 the risk of nonappearance and the defendant's record of previous  
15 convictions, record of appearance in court, family ties, community ties,  
16 employment record, financial resources, character and mental

17 condition; that the committee shall meet annually to apply the  
18 guidelines to newly enacted criminal offenses and to reevaluate the  
19 established guidelines; and that the court shall consider the bail  
20 guidelines in determining what conditions of release will reasonably  
21 assure the appearance of the arrested person in court.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To provide that a Bail Guidelines Committee consisting of prosecutors, public defenders, criminal defense lawyers, court officials and legislators shall establish bail release guidelines rather than the Court Support Services Division.