



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 9, 2011

**House Bill 6539, An Act Concerning Sentence Modification**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to House Bill 6539, *An Act Concerning Sentence Modification*. The bill would permit a sentenced individual to seek review of his or her sentence, regardless of whether the state's attorney assents to the review.

Currently, state's attorneys must agree to a request for a sentence modification review in instances where an individual is serving a sentence of more than three years. Should this requirement be eliminated, we believe that the court will be flooded with modification requests. In 2009 alone, for example, there were more than 1400 sentences imposed in excess of three years. If this bill were to pass, it is likely that many, if not most, of these defendants, plus others already serving a sentence of greater than three years, would seek a modification of their sentence.

As an increase of this magnitude will place an additional strain on court staff, necessitate additional hearings, and add to the backlog of pending cases, we are concerned about our ability to handle these cases within existing resources. Therefore, if the Committee is inclined to view this bill favorable, we would respectfully request that it be referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.