



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
April 5, 2013

**Senate Bill 1152, An Act Concerning Petition For Release From The
Requirement To Register As A Sexual Offender For Life**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding *Senate Bill 1152, An Act Concerning Petition for Release from the Requirement to Register as a Sexual Offender for Life*. This bill would allow individuals who have been on the sexual offender registry for ten years or more to apply to the Superior Court for release from the registration requirement. While the Judicial Branch takes no position on the substance of the bill, we do have implementation and resource concerns if enacted.

Section 1 of the bill is unclear as to whether the request to be removed from the registry would be heard on the criminal or civil docket. Judges sitting on the criminal docket are most attuned to sex offender cases and the current registration requirements. Therefore, we would respectfully request that the bill be more explicit that these proceedings would take place on the criminal docket, as a post-judgment hearing on the original case.

Sections 5 - 7 are also of concern to the Judicial Branch. The Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS) does maintain a database with victim information. Once an inmate is released, however, the case closes in the database. Thus, OVS no longer has the ability to search for a victim if needed at a later date. As the hearings on this bill will take place ten years or more after one's registration, OVS will not be able to provide

the contemplated notification. Perhaps consideration should be given to adding language to the bill requiring OVS to provide notification only if the victim and the victim's contact information is known to it.

Lastly, the Superior Court anticipates a marked increase in the number of post-judgment hearings if this legislation passes. Numerous petitions will be filed - there will be little to lose for those who have been ordered to register for life - taking up court time, and taking court staff and judges away from other criminal matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this bill.