



State of Connecticut

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel Office of Chief Public Defender

Raised Bill No. 6508 An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding False Statement

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing March 11, 2013

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports *Raised Bill No. 6508, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding False Statement*. A working group of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission reviewed the statutes which pertain to false statements and proposed the changes as contained in this bill. Under current law, approximately 96 statutes proscribe the penalty for making a false statement and utilize the term *under penalty of false statement*.

Section 1 would amend C.G.S. §53a-157 and change the title of the offense of *false statement in the first degree* (a class D felony) to be re-titled as *false statement on a certified payroll*, an offense which would stand on its own and remain punishable as a class D felony. None of the elements of the offense have been changed.

Section 2 would amend C.G.S. §53a-157b and make technical changes that clarify the elements which must be proven for a person to be convicted of making a false statement. The offense remains a class A misdemeanor.

The Office of Chief Public Defender requests that this bill receive a joint favorable report.