



General Assembly

**Raised Bill No. 6703**

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 5532



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH VIOLENCE AND GANG ACTIVITY.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) For the purposes of  
2 this section: (1) "Criminal gang" means a formal or informal  
3 organization, association or group of three or more persons that has:  
4 (A) As one of its primary activities the commission of one or more  
5 criminal acts; (B) members who individually or collectively engage in  
6 or have engaged in one or more criminal acts; and (C) an identifying  
7 name, sign or symbol, or an identifiable leadership or hierarchy; and  
8 (2) "criminal act" means conduct constituting a felony, as defined in  
9 section 53a-25 of the general statutes, or a misdemeanor, as defined in  
10 section 53a-26 of the general statutes, other than a violation of this  
11 section.

12 (b) A person is guilty of recruiting a member of a criminal gang  
13 when, with knowledge that membership or continued membership in  
14 such criminal gang is conditioned upon the commission of a criminal  
15 act, or with intent to facilitate the criminal acts of such criminal gang,  
16 such person knowingly causes, encourages, solicits, recruits,

17 intimidates or coerces a person under eighteen years of age to join,  
18 participate in or remain a member of such criminal gang.

19 (c) Recruiting a member of a criminal gang is a class A  
20 misdemeanor.

21 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) For the purposes of this section,  
22 "child" has the meaning provided in section 46b-120 of the general  
23 statutes, "youth" has the meaning provided in section 46b-120 of the  
24 general statutes, and "community-based service centers" has the  
25 meaning provided in section 46b-149e of the general statutes.

26 (b) The Court Support Services Division within the Judicial Branch  
27 shall conduct a pilot program, within available resources, in the cities  
28 of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven, designed to reduce the  
29 number of children and youths who come into contact with the  
30 juvenile justice system and reduce recidivism among delinquent  
31 children and youths. Probation officers within the division shall  
32 collaborate with local police departments, federal agencies, youth  
33 service bureaus and community-based service centers that are willing  
34 to participate in the pilot program to identify children and youths at  
35 risk of coming into contact with the juvenile justice system and  
36 children and youths convicted as delinquent for referral to the pilot  
37 program. Under the pilot program, participating officers and agencies  
38 shall (1) meet formally or informally with at-risk children and youths  
39 to inform such children and youths of the juvenile justice consequences  
40 of violent behavior and of criminal possession of deadly weapons, and  
41 (2) make unannounced visits to the homes, schools and workplaces of  
42 children and youths who are under the supervision of a probation  
43 officer, including, but not limited to, visits during evening hours.

44 (c) Not later than February 1, 2014, the Chief Court Administrator  
45 shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
46 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
47 having cognizance of matters relating to children and the judiciary,  
48 describing the pilot program, findings made under the pilot program

49 and recommendations for expansion or continuation of the pilot  
50 program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable*

**APP**      *Joint Favorable*