



Greater Hartford Legal Aid

Testimony of Atty. Shirley M. Pripstein

Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.

Re: Raised Bill 6927

An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Law Revision Commission

With Regard to the Alimony Statutes.

Judiciary Committee

March 11, 2015

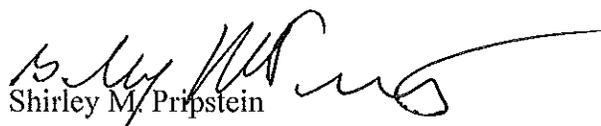
AMEND THE BILL BY DELETING SECTION 4

My name is Shirley Pripstein I am an attorney who has practiced exclusively the area of divorce and family law for over 33 years. I am a past president of the Family law Section of the CBA. I had the privilege of serving on the Committee of the Law Revision Commission which made the recommendations contained in Raised Bill 5524.

I am speaking today on behalf of the Legal Service Consortium, which consists of Greater Hartford Legal Aid, New Haven Legal Assistance Association, and Connecticut Legal Services. We represent indigent persons in the family courts throughout the State of Connecticut.

The legal service community is very concerned about Section 4 of the bill, which is that portion of the bill that deals with the modification of alimony because of a change in the living circumstances of the recipient. The Law Revision Commission was in general agreement on the creation of the new burden-shifting requirement that is contained in this section, but we were pressed for time and were not able to come up with a language that was unanimously acceptable. In particular, we were not agreement on deleting the requirement that that the living arrangement must result in a change in the financial needs of the alimony recipient in order to justify a modification. Moreover, we were not successful in devising language that would limit the application of the section to a relationship of an intimate nature without placing an undue focus on the sexual relationship between the alimony recipient and the co-habitant.

Section 4 of the bill as currently drafted creates a *de facto* presumption that alimony should terminate upon the cohabitation of the recipient. That was not the intent of a majority of the Study Commission members. Section 4 should be deleted from the bill.


Shirley M. Pripstein
Attorney at Law

Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.

999 Asylum Avenue, 3Fl. Hartford, CT 06105-2465 • Tel: 860. 541. 5000 • Fax: 860. 541.5050 • www.ghla.org

