

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-215

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING COURT OPERATIONS.

Vote Date: 4/2/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/9/2018

File No.: 605

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

The bill concept comes to the Judiciary Committee from the Judicial Branch.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Minor technical clarifications: 1. In Sec. 4(a): Modifies the time for filing accompanying documents replacing "at the time the application is filed" with "not later than the first date for which the matter appears on the docket" thereby giving the applicant sufficient time to find and file accompanying documents. 2. Adds Sec. 21: Modifies a provision from last year's court operations bill regarding police reports sent to the Victim Advocate. Upon request, the victim advocate shall be provided with a police report from the state's attorney rather than last year's more restrictive term, "from the Office of the Chief State's Attorney".

REASON FOR BILL:

Judicial Branch's annual submission of legislative objectives.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Judicial Branch, Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Judge Elliot N. Solomon: Supports the bill because it would add or clarify language that improves the branch's efficiency and effectiveness while deleting outdated language that is no longer necessary.

Rationale for each section explained:

1. Removed references to "Executive Secretary of the Judicial Branch" as these responsibilities have been reassigned to other employees.
2. Adds "status as a veteran" to list of protected classes in the Branch's outside contracting.
3. Clarifies individuals making custody applications must be the parent of child for whom they are seeking custody.

4. Removes hearing requirement for parties wishing to return to former name post-divorce judgement.
5. Removes requirement the Chief Family Support Magistrate submit annual report to the Chief Court Administrator.
6. Removes number of infractions improperly included in list of mail-in violations as infractions are all payable by mail.
7. Allows the Appellate & Supreme Court decisions be published in other means other than limiting to hard copy printing.
8. Clarifies young defendants charged with motor vehicle or alcohol related offenses & granted diversionary program afforded similar options as adults charged with same crimes.
9. Allows victims of aggravated assault of a minor be protected by privacy provisions similarly as victims of assault.
10. Eliminates the need to send duplicative notices of pardon eligibility.
11. Extends date for reporting of "Civil Gideon" pilot program from Jan. 1, 2019 to July 1, 2019.
12. Permits parties who receive benefits under Title XIX to obtain dissolutions of marriage through the nonadversarial process.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Jeryl Gray of Stratford: Opposes the bill and details her review and displeasure with the Probate Court. Ms. Gray claims the courts seize the assets of their clients in order to reimburse themselves and the Judicial Branch. Ms. Gray explains her mother, Dolores Gray is a Probate Court prisoner and a victim of "CT Probate/ElderLaw/Elder "Care" racketeering & human trafficking cartel".

Reported by: Andrew Silva

Date: April 25, 2018