



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 26, 2018

H.B. 5578 - An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to the Sexual Offender Registry

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of **H.B. 5578 - An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to the Sexual Offender Registry**. The Office of Chief Public Defender is a member of the Sentencing Commission and participates personally and with the assistance of employees of the Division of Public Defender Services on its various subcommittees and working groups. The bill as drafted represents a consensus reached on the various issues pertaining to the sex offender registry as it currently exists. The legislation creates a placement panel within a Sexual Offender Registration Board which would conduct a risk assessment of an offender using evidence based criteria. The risk assessment conducted would assist in determining whether an offender is a high, moderate or low risk offender and his/her placement on the current sex offender registry or a law enforcement registry. In addition, the bill provides a mechanism by which a registrant can apply to the court for an exemption from a 10 year registration requirement. Working with the diverse membership of the Sentencing Commission, consensus was obtained after thorough review of tier registries of other states. The Office of Chief Public Defender continues to support these recommendations.