
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6921 (as amended by House "A" and "B")*

AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON A PERSON'S CRIMINAL HISTORY.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a 20-member Council on the Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Record within the legislative department. The council must (1) study discrimination faced by people in the state living with a criminal record and (2) develop legislative recommendations to reduce or eliminate discrimination based on a person's criminal history.

The bill names the chairpersons of the Labor and Public Employees Committee as the council's chairpersons and requires them to schedule the first meeting within 60 days after the bill becomes effective. After that, the council must meet upon the call of the chairpersons or a majority of the council members. The council must hold at least three public forums in Connecticut communities to allow the public to provide input on the council's focus. The Labor and Public Employees Committee's administrative staff must serve as the council's administrative staff.

The council must submit a report on its legislative recommendations to the Labor and Public Employees Committee by February 1, 2020.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill (File 476), which would have prohibited discrimination based on someone's criminal history in various contexts, and instead establishes the council.

*House Amendment "B" adds the Labor and Public Employees Committee's House and Senate ranking members to the council and allows the committee's chairpersons and ranking members to appoint

designees, who must be state legislators.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The bill establishes the council with 10 ex-officio members and 10 appointed members. The ex-officio members are the (1) chairpersons and ranking members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee; (2) undersecretary of the Office of Policy and Management’s Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division; (3) correction, labor, and consumer protection commissioners; (4) Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities’ executive director; and (5) Commission on Equity and Opportunity’s executive director.

All of the ex-officio members may appoint designees to the council, however, the designees of the Labor Committee’s chairpersons and ranking members must be members of the General Assembly. (If the committee’s chairpersons appoint designees, it is unclear if the designees would serve as the council’s chairpersons.)

Under the bill, the remaining 10 members of the council must be appointed by either the House or Senate chairperson of the Labor and Public Employees Committee and have certain qualifications, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Appointed Members

<i>Appointed by House Chair of the Labor and Public Employees Committee</i>	<i>Appointed by Senate Chair of the Labor and Public Employees Committee</i>
A justice-impacted person	Representative from the American Civil Liberties Union
Representative from the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now	Representative from the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
Representative from the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy	Representative from the Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice
Representative from the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls	Representative from the New Haven Legal Assistance Association Reentry Clinic
Representative from the Service Employees’ International Union, Local 32BJ	Representative from Voices of Women of Color

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9 Nay 4 (03/21/2019)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 12 (05/13/2019)