
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7401 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF VICTIM SERVICES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes it a class A misdemeanor for a state or municipal employee to transmit, disseminate, or make available to a third party any photographic or digital images of a dead body he or she encountered in the course of his or her duties, unless he or she:

1. is performing official duties by doing so,
2. does so to make or support a report of crime or misconduct by another person, or
3. has the consent of one of the deceased person's immediate family members.

A class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in prison, up to a \$2,000 fine, or both.

Under the bill, a person cannot be convicted of the above crime and for violating the law that prohibits first responders from taking images of crime or accident victims without authorization (CGS § 53-341c, punishable by the penalties for a class A misdemeanor). But a person may be charged and prosecuted for both offenses upon the same information.

Under the bill, (1) "state employees" means anyone in state service, whether appointed or elected, including quasi-public agency employees and (2) "municipal employees" means anyone appointed or under contract to provide services for a city, town, or other political subdivision of the state.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which

established a working group to study victim services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 14 (04/08/2019)