

Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-996

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS STATUTES CONCERNING

Title: THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Vote Date: 4/9/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/25/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill provides for more appropriate enforcement of statutes concerning unlawful employment of state officers or employees to influence legislation, to make a technical correction, to clarify provisions regarding the recording of telephone conversations at the behest of law enforcement, to provide an enhanced penalty in the case of second degree assault with a firearm, to extend protections against lockout to additional tenants and lessees, to repeal obsolete provisions concerning the state's attorney's role in the removal of town clerks and town treasurers and to repeal obsolete provisions regarding the role of the state's attorney with regard to highway construction and neglect of a highway.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language retains section 2 subsection 15 in this bill, which allows an emancipated minor to execute releases in such minor's own name. However, it eliminates "under section 14-118" from that subsection because section 14-118 was previously repealed.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Division of Criminal Justice:

This is the division's omnibus bill, which includes several minor or technical changes to various statutes. Section 1 through 3 are technical changes, section 4 corrects an inconsistency in the statutes concerning the crimes of Assault in the Second Degree and Assault in the Second Degree with a Firearm. Section 5 extends the criminal lockout statutes to include commercial properties; and section 6 repeals obsolete statutory provisions.

Chief Public Defender, Division of Public Defender Services, Christine Perra Rapillo:

The division takes no position on this bill, but does have concerns with proposed changes in Sections 2 and 3. In section 2, “under §14-118” should be deleted rather removing the entire subsection, which protects an emancipated minor’s right to execute releases in their own name. In section 3, there is concern that the definition of “agent” is very broad and could dilute the requirement that the policy have probable cause to obtain communication where an individual may have a reasonable expectation of privacy. (*The substitute language deletes “under §14-118” from Section 2*).

External Affairs Division, Judicial Branch:

The Judicial Branch requests one change. Section 4 should be two separate penalties broken down by subdivision so that the criminal justice community can clearly distinguish the actions and penalties from one another.

RESPONSE FROM PUBLIC:

City of Hartford, Court of Common Council, Larry Deutsch:

This bill should pass because it represents an opportunity to rectify persistent wrongs in the criminal justice system.

Noemi Soto (New Britain, CT):

This bill should be supported because the people’s voices have been silenced, and the integrity of our government marred by unjust legal remedies and the bias application of judicial power. This bill helps move the criminal justice system in the right direction.

Reported by: Robert J. Anderson

April 18, 2019