



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Raised Bill No. 7222**

LCO No. 4753



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) The Attorney General  
2 may investigate any allegation that a person has:

3 (1) Interfered with or attempted to interfere with, by threat,  
4 intimidation or coercion, another person's exercise or enjoyment of  
5 rights secured by the state Constitution or the United States  
6 Constitution or by the laws of this state or of the United States,  
7 including, but not limited to, through the commission of an act that  
8 constitutes a violation of section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l of the  
9 general statutes; or

10 (2) Repeatedly or, in a manner violating the public interest,  
11 subjected, or caused to be subjected, another person to the deprivation  
12 of rights, privileges or immunities secured or protected by the state  
13 Constitution or the United States Constitution or by the laws of this  
14 state or of the United States.

15 (b) In conducting investigations under this section, the Attorney  
16 General may issue subpoenas and interrogatories, and otherwise  
17 gather information, to the extent provided in, and subject to the  
18 provisions of, section 35-42 of the general statutes.

19 (c) Whenever a person is alleged to be committing an act described  
20 in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, the Attorney  
21 General, in his or her discretion, may (1) intervene in or bring a  
22 proceeding before any appropriate agency, board or commission, and  
23 (2) intervene in or bring a civil action seeking appropriate relief.

24 (d) If the Attorney General brings a civil action pursuant to  
25 subsection (c) of this section, the Attorney General may (1) file such  
26 action in the name of the state and on behalf of persons affected in this  
27 state, and (2) seek injunctive or declaratory relief, compensatory or  
28 punitive damages on behalf of any aggrieved person to the extent  
29 authorized by applicable law, civil penalties not to exceed ten  
30 thousand dollars per violation, reasonable attorney's fees, investigation  
31 costs, litigation costs in an amount to be determined by the court and  
32 such other relief as may be available under the law.

33 (e) In lieu of bringing a civil action under this section, the Attorney  
34 General may accept an assurance of the discontinuance of any  
35 allegedly unlawful or unconstitutional practice. Thereafter, any  
36 evidence of a violation of such assurance shall constitute prima facie  
37 proof of violation of the applicable law or right in any action  
38 commenced by the Attorney General.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To clarify the Attorney General's authority to (1) investigate allegations that an individual's civil rights are being violated, and (2) initiate legal proceedings in response to such allegations.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*