Bill No.: HB-5244
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL HOUSING PROTECTIONS FOR A VICTIM OF FAMILY VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.
Vote Date: 3/5/2020
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/27/2020

Disclaimer: The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.

SPONSORS OF BILL:
The Housing Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:
Requested by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to increase safety for a victim of family violence or sexual assault when an order of protection has been issued by a civil or criminal court.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
*Selia Mosquera-Bruno, Department of Housing:* The DOH is in support of bill 5244 because they support additional protections for those who are victims of family, domestic, and sexual violence. Along with stating that the bill encourages support for tenants to achieve financial and housing stability.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
The following people are in support of HB-5244 because they believe that this bill will protect victims of sexual and domestic violence by forcing landlords to change locks on dwellings with those victims. They also state that there are no laws in place that force a landlord to change locks when a tenant’s safety is threatened.

*Alisha Donovan, Program Director for the Susan B. Anthony Project*

*Liza Andrews, Director of Public Policy & Communications for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence*
Rowan Center Staff, The Rowan Center

Mary-Jane Foster, CEO of Interval House, Hartford

Madeline Granato, Policy Director of Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund

Lindsey Jones, Community Justice Advocate for the YWCA, Hartford

Cara Mackler, Manager of Campus Education at Women's Center, Danbury

Lee Schlesinger, Executive Director at the Safe Haven of Waterbury, Waterbury

Angela Schlingheyde, Director of Legal & Court Advocacy Services at the Center of Family Justice, Bridgeport

The following people are in support of HB-5244 for the reasons stated above and suggested that the language of the bill be changed from "two business days" to "48 hours" as to further protect those suffering from violence:

Lucy Nolan, Director of Policy and Public Relations for the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Raphael L. Podolsky, Public Policy Advocate for Connecticut Legal Services, New Britain

The following people voiced support for HB-5244.

John Souza, President of the Connecticut Coalition of Property Owners

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anthony Vasiliou, President of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Glastonbury: Vasiliou and his organization are against HB-5244 with the current language, as they fear that there will be unintended consequences. He states that there are units with "kox-boxes", which are electronic key-locked doors on some properties, and by allowing the tenants to change the codes, emergency responders who have an override key would not be able to access the building when they need to in emergency situations.

Reported by: Dalton Mongeau Date: 03/09/2020