
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 919

AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNITY FROM CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FOR A MINOR WHO POSSESSES ALCOHOL WHEN THE MINOR SEEKS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT THE DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY OF ANOTHER PERSON.

SUMMARY

This bill gives minors (i.e., under age 21) immunity from criminal prosecution for possessing alcohol when they call 9-1-1 to prevent another person's death or serious injury. By law, a first violation for possession of alcohol as a minor is an infraction, and a second violation is punishable by a fine of \$200 to \$500. Convicted minors also face driver's license sanctions (e.g., a 60-day suspension if the minor possessed alcohol in public) (CGS § 14-111e).

Under the bill, in order for the immunity to apply, a law enforcement officer must first become aware of a minor's illegal possession of alcoholic liquor (e.g., spirit, wine, or beer) after the minor made a 9-1-1 call to a law enforcement agency requesting emergency medical assistance. The minor must have called based on his or her reasonable belief that another individual needed immediate medical assistance to prevent death or serious bodily injury.

Additionally, the bill requires the minor placing the call to (1) be the first person to make the call requesting immediate medical assistance and (2) provide his or her full name and any other relevant information the law enforcement agency requests during the call. Finally, the minor must remain at the scene with the individual needing immediate medical assistance until law enforcement and emergency medical personnel arrives, and fully cooperate with them at the scene.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 1 (03/29/2021)