

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 21-142—SB 919

Judiciary Committee

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 act provides a minor (i.e., under age 21) immunity from criminal prosecution for illegally possessing alcoholic liquor (e.g., spirit, wine, or beer) when he or she calls 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).

For the immunity to apply under the act, a law enforcement officer must first become aware of a minor's illegal possession of alcohol after the minor made the 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 act 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 arrive and must fully cooperate with them at the scene.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021