



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Proposed Bill No. 5926

LCO No. 2301



* 0 2 3 0 1 *

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:

REP. GILCHREST, 18th Dist.

SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.

REP. PALM, 36th Dist.

REP. HORN, 64th Dist.

SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.

SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.

REP. GOUPIL, 35th Dist.

REP. FARRAR, 20th Dist.

REP. KAVROS DEGRAW, 17th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE.

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

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) (A) Incorporate language
- 2 into section 46b-15 of the general statutes to address coercive control
- 3 and the prominence of nonphysical abusive behaviors from which
- 4 victims seek relief, and (B) in coordination with the Judicial Branch,
- 5 update restraining order statutory language to remove the requirements
- 6 of a notarized statement and instead allow applications to be made
- 7 under penalty of false statement, allowing for a fully online process
- 8 accessible to all victims; (2) incorporate consideration of risk and safety
- 9 concerns after a relationship has ended into the Judicial Branch's
- 10 existing training program and require that the branch submit a biennial
- 11 report to the judiciary committee regarding the family violence training
- 12 curriculum used and number of judges and court personnel trained over
- 13 the previous biennium; (3) require that a safe space be provided to

14 victims of family violence in all court locations; (4) require that, upon
15 request, a Family Violence Victim Advocate in criminal court be
16 provided with an arrest report, similar to the Office of Victim Service's
17 advocates; (5) specify that violations of court orders issued for family
18 violence will be considered a family crime; (6) address violations of
19 court orders issued for family violence in an effort to highlight the
20 increased risk that such violations pose in instances of family violence
21 and that this heightened risk should be considered when the court is
22 determining if cash bond should be required; (7) seek to define
23 "expeditious" processing of U-Visa applications for victims of domestic
24 violence and clarify the role of municipal and state law enforcement in
25 the application process; (8) requiring that, upon the request of a tenant,
26 a landlord change or permit the tenant to change a lock if they have a
27 restraining or protective order issued by the court and that the landlord
28 can charge the tenant the actual reasonable cost of changing the lock; (9)
29 expedite nutritional assistance, child care benefits and cash assistance
30 for victims of domestic violence; and (10) prohibit property and casualty
31 insurers from discriminating against an individual solely because the
32 individual is a victim of domestic violence and provide that such
33 discrimination constitutes a violation of the Connecticut Unfair
34 Insurance Practices Act.

Statement of Purpose:

To address and prevent domestic violence in Connecticut.