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## OLR Bill Analysis

**SB 1134 (File 514, as amended by Senate "A")\***

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECRUITMENT OF LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR APPRENTICE PROSECUTOR POSITIONS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows the Criminal Justice Commission, within available appropriations, to interview and appoint as an “apprentice prosecutor” any student from an accredited law school who is within five months of graduation and is a certified legal intern. (It does not define an apprentice prosecutor’s scope of duties.)

Under the bill, a student who the commission appoints as an apprentice prosecutor advances to the position of deputy assistant state’s attorney once admitted to the Connecticut bar within one year after graduating law school. This creates an exception to existing law by guaranteeing appointment upon bar passage (CGS § 51-278a(a)).

\*Senate Amendment “A” requires law students to be within five months of graduation, rather than be enrolled in their second semester of their third year as in the underlying bill, to be eligible to be appointed as an apprentice prosecutor. It also specifies that the commission may make these appointments within available appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Criminal Justice Commission***

The state constitution establishes the Criminal Justice Commission and charges it with appointing a state’s attorney for each judicial district and other attorneys as prescribed by law (Ct. Const., art. IV, § 27). It consists of seven members: the chief state’s attorney and six members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly. Two appointed members must be Superior Court judges (CGS § 51-

275a).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/27/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 44 Nay 9 (05/01/2023)