



Senate Bill No. 1134

Public Act No. 23-55

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

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

Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 51-278 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(b) (1) (A) The Criminal Justice Commission shall appoint (i) two deputy chief state's attorneys as assistant administrative heads of the Division of Criminal Justice, one of whom shall be deputy chief state's attorney for operations and one of whom shall be deputy chief state's attorney for personnel, finance and administration, who shall assist the Chief State's Attorney in his duties, and (ii) one deputy chief state's attorney who shall be appointed by the commission, as provided in subdivision (8) of this subsection, to serve as Inspector General in accordance with section 51-277e, who shall receive his or her prosecutorial powers as a designee of the Chief State's Attorney. The term of office of a deputy chief state's attorney shall be four years from July first in the year of appointment and until the appointment and qualification of a successor unless sooner removed by the Criminal Justice Commission. The Criminal Justice Commission shall designate one deputy chief state's attorney appointed under subparagraph (A)(i)

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of this subsection who shall, in the absence or disqualification of the Chief State's Attorney, exercise the powers and duties of the Chief State's Attorney until such Chief State's Attorney resumes his duties. For the purposes of this subparagraph, the Criminal Justice Commission means the members of the commission other than the Chief State's Attorney. (B) The Criminal Justice Commission shall appoint a state's attorney for each judicial district, who shall act therein as attorney on behalf of the state. The Criminal Justice Commission shall also appoint, from candidates recommended by the appropriate state's attorney and deemed qualified by the commission, as many assistant state's attorneys and deputy assistant state's attorneys on a full-time or part-time basis for each judicial district as the criminal business of the court, in the opinion of the Chief State's Attorney, may require, and the commission shall also appoint, from candidates recommended by the Chief State's Attorney and deemed qualified by the commission, as many assistant state's attorneys and deputy assistant state's attorneys as are necessary, in the opinion of the Chief State's Attorney, to assist the Chief State's Attorney. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 51-278a, the commission may, within available appropriations, interview and appoint to the position of apprentice prosecutor any student of an accredited law school who is within five months of graduation from such law school and who is a certified legal intern pursuant to the rules of the Superior Court. Any person so appointed shall advance to the position of deputy assistant state's attorney upon such person gaining admission to the Connecticut bar within one year of the date of such person's graduation from such law school. Assistant state's attorneys and deputy assistant state's attorneys, respectively, shall assist the state's attorneys for the judicial districts and the Chief State's Attorney in all criminal matters and, in the absence from the district or disability of the state's attorney or at his request, shall have and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of state's attorney. At least three such assistant state's attorneys or deputy assistant state's attorneys shall be designated by the Chief State's Attorney to handle all

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prosecutions in the state of housing matters deemed to be criminal. Any assistant or deputy assistant state's attorney so designated should have a commitment to the maintenance of decent, safe and sanitary housing and, to the extent practicable, shall handle housing matters on a full-time basis. At least one assistant state's attorney shall be designated by the Chief State's Attorney to handle all prosecutions in the state of environmental matters deemed to be criminal. Any assistant state's attorney so designated should have a commitment to protecting the environment and, to the extent practicable, shall handle environmental matters on a full-time basis. (C) The Chief State's Attorney may promote any assistant state's attorney, or deputy assistant state's attorney who assists him, and the appropriate state's attorney may promote any assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney who assists such state's attorney in the judicial district. The Chief State's Attorney shall notify the Criminal Justice Commission of any such promotion.

Approved June 26, 2023