



House Bill No. 5418

Public Act No. 24-129

***AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN A
PRETRIAL FAMILY VIOLENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM.***

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

Section 1. Subsection (h) of section 46b-38c of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(h) (1) There shall be a pretrial family violence education program for persons who are charged with family violence crimes. At a minimum, such program shall inform participants of the basic elements of family violence law and applicable penalties. The court may, in its discretion, invoke such program on motion of the defendant when it finds: (A) That the defendant has not previously been convicted of a family violence crime which occurred on or after October 1, 1986; (B) the defendant has not had a previous case assigned to the family violence education program; (C) the defendant has not previously invoked or accepted accelerated rehabilitation under section 54-56e for a family violence crime which occurred on or after October 1, 1986; and (D) that the defendant is not charged with (i) a class A [,] or class B [or] felony, (ii) a class C felony, [or] except in the case of a person charged with a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53-21 and good cause is shown, (iii) an unclassified felony carrying a term of imprisonment of

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more than ten years, or (iv) unless good cause is shown, (I) a class D felony, (II) an unclassified offense carrying a term of imprisonment of more than five years, or (III) an offense that involved the infliction of serious physical injury, as defined in section 53a-3. Participation by any person in the accelerated pretrial rehabilitation program under section 54-56e prior to October 1, 1986, shall not prohibit eligibility of such person for the pretrial family violence education program under this section. The court may require that the defendant answer such questions under oath, in open court or before any person designated by the clerk and duly authorized to administer oaths, under the penalties of perjury as will assist the court in making these findings.

(2) The court, on such motion, may refer the defendant to the family violence intervention unit, and may continue the defendant's case pending the submission of the report of the unit to the court. The court shall also give notice to the victim or victims that the defendant has requested assignment to the family violence education program, and, where possible, give the victim or victims opportunity to be heard. Any defendant who accepts placement in the family violence education program shall agree to the tolling of any statute of limitations with respect to the crime or crimes with which the defendant is charged, and to a waiver of the defendant's right to a speedy trial. Any such defendant shall appear in court and shall be released to the custody of the family violence intervention unit for such period, not exceeding two years, and under such conditions as the court shall order. If the defendant refuses to accept, or, having accepted, violates such conditions, the defendant's case shall be brought to trial. If the defendant satisfactorily completes the family violence education program and complies with the conditions imposed for the period set by the court, the defendant may apply for dismissal of the charges against the defendant and the court, on finding satisfactory compliance, shall dismiss such charges.

(3) Upon dismissal of charges under this subsection, all records of

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such charges shall be erased pursuant to section 54-142a.

Approved June 5, 2024