
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 138

AN ACT CONCERNING THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK FEES FOR AN INDIGENT PERSON SEEKING A PARDON.

SUMMARY

This bill waives certain fingerprinting and criminal history record search and preregistration fees for indigent individuals requesting them for their pardon applications. It applies to the following fees:

1. the convenience fee for fingerprinting of up to \$30 charged by independent contractors operating under an agreement with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP),
2. any processing or distribution fees charged for a criminal history report, and
3. any fee for electronically preregistering with the Connecticut criminal history request system.

Existing law already allows DESPP to waive the \$75 fee for a criminal history report for indigent individuals requesting it for their pardon application.

Under the bill, an individual seeking these fingerprinting or background check services for their pardon application may apply for a fee waiver due to indigency on a DESPP-prescribed form. If the commissioner approves the waiver, the entity providing the service (e.g., independent contractor, state police, or municipal police department) must waive the fee. The bill requires the DESPP commissioner to reimburse independent contractors for any waivers he approves for their convenience fees and authorizes him to reimburse

municipal police departments for their waived fees if they request it.

The bill requires the DESPP commissioner to post the fee waiver forms described above on the State Police Bureau of Identification's website and give them to each location where a municipal police department provides fingerprinting services. These locations must prominently display the forms, together with other materials and documents needed for pardon applications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/01/2024)