



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7070

LCO No. 5264



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A HOUSE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 53a-19 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2025*):

4 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, a
5 person is not justified in using deadly physical force upon another
6 person if he or she knows that he or she can avoid the necessity of using
7 such force with complete safety (1) by retreating, except that the actor
8 shall not be required to retreat (A) if he or she is in (i) a house of religious
9 worship owned by, or held in trust for the use of, any religious
10 organization, (ii) his or her dwelling, as defined in section 53a-100, or
11 (iii) his or her place of work and was not the initial aggressor, or (B) if
12 he or she is a peace officer or a private person assisting such peace officer
13 at his or her direction, and acting pursuant to section 53a-22, [or] (2) by
14 surrendering possession of property to a person asserting a claim of
15 right thereto, or (3) by complying with a demand that he or she abstain

16 from performing an act which he or she is not obliged to perform.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	53a-19(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate the requirement that a person in a house of religious worship retreat before using deadly physical force to defend himself or herself or a third person.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]