



Connecticut Law Revision Commission

2014 Annual Report

CONNECTICUT LAW REVISION COMMISSION

The Connecticut Law Revision Commission assists the Connecticut General Assembly by recommending revisions of Connecticut law to ensure its responsiveness to current needs and recent case law. The commission undertakes revisions at the request of the Judiciary Committee or other legislative committees, as well as legislative leaders, state agencies, the Judicial Department, the Connecticut Bar Association, law school professors, and private practitioners. Statutory authority for the Connecticut Law Revision Commission is found in sections 2-85 to 2-88, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Governor, the President Pro Tempore, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each appoint members to the Commission. The President Pro Tempore, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the Chairpersons and Ranking Members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary also sit as members on the Commission or may designate individuals to serve as members in their place. Any designee of a Chairperson or Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee must be a current member of the Judiciary Committee.

Since 2003, the state budget has not included funding for commission staff. Pursuant to Section 2-88 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the commission has requested assistance in the performance of its responsibilities from the Legislative Commissioners' Office. Assistance is also provided by other staff offices within the Connecticut General Assembly. Pursuant to Section 2-88 of the Connecticut General Statutes, additional assistance may be provided from any other source.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

Representative Arthur J. O'Neill, Chairman

Hon. Julia L. Aurigemma

William R. Breetz

Sen. Eric D. Coleman

Professor Anne C. Dailey

Jon P. FitzGerald

Rep. Daniel J. Fox

Benjamin Gettinger

Sen. John A. Kissel

Eleanor Michael

Neal Ossen

Rep. Rosa Rebimbas

Joel I. Rudikoff

Joseph J. Selinger, Jr.

Thomas J. Welsh

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS INITIATED, PENDING OR COMPLETED DURING 2014

ALIMONY STUDY

Section 5 of Public Act 13-213 ("act") mandated that the Connecticut Law Revision Commission ("commission") conduct a study into the fairness and adequacy of state statutes relating to the award of alimony in actions for dissolution of marriage, legal separation or annulment. The act also required the commission to collect empirical data relating to the award of alimony by courts in the state and make recommendations for revisions to state statutes as the commission deems just and equitable.

At a meeting on September 24, 2013, the commission voted to authorize the Chairman of the commission, Representative Arthur O'Neill, to appoint and convene a study committee to conduct the study required under the act and make its recommendations to the full commission.

Chairman O'Neill appointed the following members to serve on the study committee:

Chairman: Justice Ian McLachlan (Ret)
Attorney Barbara Aaron
Attorney Livia Barndollar
Attorney Campbell Barrett
The Honorable Judge Thomas D. Colin
Attorney Gaetano Ferro
Attorney Benjamin Gettinger
Attorney Kate Haakonsen
Attorney Bruce Loudon
The Honorable Judge Lisa K. Morgan
Attorney Shirley Pripstein
Senator Beth Bye

Attorneys from the Legislative Commissioners' Office served as staff for the study committee.

The study committee met initially on December 9, 2013, and voted to meet again in January 2014. Chairman O'Neill joined the meeting on December 9, 2013, and indicated to the study committee that it could recommend that it be continued to allow it to complete a more comprehensive review and adopt more comprehensive recommendations.

The study committee subsequently met on January 8, 2014, January 15, 2014, January 22, 2014 and February 4, 2014, and held a public hearing on January 29, 2014. The study committee submitted its final report to the

full Law Revision Commission in February, 2014, and the full Law Revision Commission approved the report on February 21, 2014. A copy of the study committee's report is available at the following Internet web site address:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/lrc/Alimony/Final%202014%20LRC%20Alimony%20Study%20Report.pdf>

Upon the request of the Law Revision Commission, the Judiciary Committee raised HB 5524 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE ALIMONY STATUTES. The Judiciary Committee reported a substitute version of the bill to the floor on April 2, 2014. Two amendments were filed on the bill but the House of Representatives adjourned without taking action on the bill.

ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES - 2014

There were no expenditures attributed to the Law Revision Commission during the 2014 calendar year.