



## Connecticut Law Revision Commission

### 2015 Annual Report

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## 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. Section 2-88 of the Connecticut General Statutes also provides that additional assistance may be provided from any other source.

**COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015**

Representative Arthur J. O'Neill, Chairman

Honorable Julia L. Aurigemma

William R. Breetz

Senator Eric D. Coleman

Professor Anne C. Dailey

Jon P. FitzGerald

Benjamin Gettinger

Senator John A. Kissel

Eleanor Michael

Neal Ossen

Representative Rosa Rebimbas

Joel I. Rudikoff

Joseph J. Selinger, Jr.

Representative William Tong

Michael Vitali

Thomas J. Welsh

## **RESEARCH AND PROJECTS INITIATED, PENDING OR COMPLETED DURING 2015**

There were no projects initiated or completed during 2015.

### **LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE 2015 REGULAR SESSION**

#### **ALIMONY STUDY**

Section 5 of Public Act 13-213 ("act") mandated that the Connecticut Law Revision 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. A study committee was appointed and the full Law Revision Commission approved the study committee's report on February 21, 2014. The study committee was chaired by Justice Ian McLachlan (Retired).

During the 2014 session, 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, but no further action was taken on the bill.

During the 2015 session, Representative Arthur O'Neill, 69<sup>th</sup> District, introduced Proposed Bill 5604, which was entitled AN ACT ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION REGARDING ALIMONY STATUTES. Thereafter, the Judiciary Committee raised a bill on the topic which became House Bill 6927 and was entitled AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ALIMONY STATUTES. The Judiciary Committee reported the bill to the floor on April 6, 2015, but no further action was taken on the bill.

#### **PROPOSED STUDY**

During the 2015 session, the Judiciary Committee raised House Bill 7053 which was entitled AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY BY THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION OF PROCESSES INVOLVING THE FORECLOSURE OF TAX LIENS BY MUNICIPALITIES. The bill mandated that the Law Revision Commission conduct a study into the adequacy of state processes governing the foreclosure of tax liens by a municipality. The Judiciary Committee reported the bill to the floor on April 6, 2015, but no further action was taken on the bill.

UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR VESSELS ACT  
EFFECTIVE DATE

Public Act 14-63, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIFORM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR VESSELS ACT, takes effect January 1, 2016. The act was based in large part on a study committee report that was completed in February 2012. The study committee was co-chaired by commission members Attorney Neal Ossen and Attorney Thomas J. Welsh.

**ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES - 2015**

There were no expenditures attributed to the Law Revision Commission during the 2015 calendar year.