



ACTS AFFECTING CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY



2015-R-0180

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NOTICE TO READERS

This report provides brief highlights of new laws affecting crime and public safety enacted during the 2015 regular and June special sessions. Each entry indicates the public act (PA) or special act (SA) number. We do not include vetoed public acts.

Not all provisions of the acts are included here. Complete summaries of all 2015 public acts will be available when OLR publishes its Public Act Summary book; some are already on OLR's website. (www.cga.ct.gov/olr/OLRPASums.asp).

All acts summarized here are effective October 1, 2015, unless otherwise noted.

Readers are encouraged to obtain the full text of acts that interest them from the Connecticut State Library, House Clerk's Office, or General Assembly's website (www.cga.ct.gov/).

TABLE ON PENALTIES

The law authorizes courts to impose imprisonment, fines, or both when sentencing a convicted criminal. Table 1 displays the range of prison terms and fines that judges may impose for each classification of crime. Some crimes have a mandatory minimum sentence not specified in the table. Also, repeated or persistent offenders may face higher sentences than specified here.

Table 1: Crime Classifications and their Penalties

<i>Felony or Misdemeanor</i>	<i>Prison Term</i>	<i>Fine</i>
Class A felony—murder with special circumstances	Life without the possibility of release	Up to \$20,000
Class A felony—murder	25 to 60 years	Up to \$20,000
Class A felony—aggravated sexual assault of a minor	25 to 50 years	Up to \$20,000
Class A felony	10 to 25 years	Up to \$20,000
Class B felony—1st degree manslaughter with a firearm	5 to 40 years	Up to \$15,000
Class B felony	1 to 20 years	Up to \$15,000
Class C felony	1 to 10 years	Up to \$10,000
Class D felony	Up to 5 years	Up to \$5,000
Class E felony	Up to 3 years	Up to \$3,500
Class A misdemeanor	Up to 1 year	Up to \$2,000
Class B misdemeanor	Up to 6 months	Up to \$1,000
Class C misdemeanor	Up to 3 months	Up to \$500
Class D misdemeanor	Up to 30 days	Up to \$250

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CRIMES

Assault Crimes

[PA 15-211, §§ 4 & 15](#), increases the penalty for assaults in three separate circumstances. It:

1. makes it a form of 2nd degree assault to intentionally cause physical injury to someone by striking or kicking the other person in the head while the person is in a lying position, thus increasing the penalty for this conduct from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony;
2. increases the penalty for 2nd degree assault from a class D felony to a class C felony when serious physical injury results; and
3. makes assaulting a state or municipal animal control officer or a licensed and registered security officer a class C felony.

Commercial Fishing

[PA 15-52](#) makes numerous changes to the commercial fishing statutes. Among other things, it:

1. increases the general penalty for violating the commercial fishing licensing statutes from up to 30 days in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both, to a class C misdemeanor for a first offense and class B misdemeanor for subsequent offenses;
2. decreases the penalty for violating blue crab sport fishing regulations from up to 30 days in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both to an infraction; and

3. increases the penalty for falsifying a quota-managed species report submitted to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner from an infraction to a class D misdemeanor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016

Drug Possession

[PA 15-2, June Special Session, §§ 1-8, 19 & 21](#), replaces the prior penalty structure for drug possession crimes, which punished possession of most types of illegal drugs as felonies. It creates a new structure that punishes possession of .5 ounces or more of marijuana or any amount of another illegal drug as a class A misdemeanor. But it allows the court to (1) suspend prosecution for a second offense and order treatment for a drug dependent person and (2) punish third-time or subsequent offenders as persistent offenders, which subjects them to the penalties for a class E felony. It also reduces the enhanced penalty for drug possession near schools or day care centers from a two-year mandatory prison sentence to a class A misdemeanor with a required prison and probation sentence.

Electronic Stalking

[PA 15-175](#) creates the crime of electronic stalking and makes it a class B misdemeanor. A person commits this crime when he or she willfully and repeatedly uses a global positioning system or similar electronic monitoring

system to remotely determine or track another person's position or movement, thereby recklessly causing the individual to reasonably fear for his or her physical safety.

Evidence Tampering

[PA 15-211, § 9](#), expands the scope of this crime to include activities that occur while a criminal investigation, in addition to an official proceeding, is pending or anticipated.

Failing to Stop After an Accident

[PA 15-211, § 28](#), increases the penalty for drivers who fail to stop after being involved in accidents causing serious physical injury or death. It doubles the (1) prison penalty from between one and 10 years to between two and 20 years and (2) maximum fine from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Felony Murder

[PA 15-211, § 3](#) expands the crime of felony murder to include when a person (1) commits or attempts to commit home invasion and (2) during or in furtherance of the crime, or while fleeing the crime, the person or any other participant in the crime causes the death of someone not participating in the crime. By law, felony murder includes causing a death as described above related to the crime of robbery, burglary, kidnapping, 1st or 3rd degree sexual assault, 1st degree aggravated sexual assault, 3rd degree sexual assault with a firearm, or 1st or 2nd degree escape.

Mandated Reporters Failing to Report Child Abuse

[PA 15-205](#) increases, from a class A misdemeanor to a class E felony, the penalty for a mandated reporter who fails to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), if the (1) violation is a subsequent violation; (2) violation is willful, intentional, or due to gross negligence; or (3) mandated reporter had actual knowledge of the abuse, neglect, or sexual assault. The act establishes that a mandated reporter's suspicions or beliefs do not require certainty or probable cause and may be based on observations; allegations; facts; or statements by a child, victim, or third party.

Among other things, the act also expands the reporting requirement for school employees (also see "Schools" below).

"Revenge Porn"

[PA 15-213](#) creates a new crime of unlawful dissemination of an intimate image, which is sometimes referred to as "revenge porn." This new crime is a class A misdemeanor.

Simple Trespass

By law, a person commits simple trespass by entering any premises knowing he or she is not licensed or privileged to enter, without intent to harm the property. [PA 15-211, § 8](#), expands this infraction to include when a person remains in or on the premises.

Voyeurism and "Upskirting"

[PA 15-213](#) makes a number of changes to voyeurism crimes by:

1. expanding these crimes to cover, among other things, conduct sometimes referred to as "upskirting;"
2. increasing the penalty from a class D to a class C felony when the victim is under age 16 or the offender has a prior conviction of voyeurism or certain other crimes;
3. extending the statute of limitations for voyeurism under certain circumstances;
4. increasing the possible probation term for certain types of voyeurism; and
5. extending to voyeurism victims three protections existing law gives to certain sexual assault victims about disclosure of their names, addresses, and other identifying information.

INCARCERATION ALTERNATIVES

Data on Military and Veteran Participation

[PA 15-246](#) requires the Judicial Branch, beginning January 1, 2016, to collect data on the number of armed forces members, veterans, and nonveterans who apply for and are granted admission or denied entry into the:

1. accelerated rehabilitation (AR) program,

2. pretrial supervised diversionary program for veterans and individuals with psychiatric disabilities, and
3. pretrial drug education and community service program.

These programs allow eligible defendants to avoid prosecution and have their charges dismissed upon successfully completing the program.

Beginning January 15, 2017, the branch must annually report the prior year's data to the Veterans' Affairs and Judiciary committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016

Drug Education Program

[PA 15-211, § 12](#), requires the drug education program portion of the pretrial drug education and community service program to be a 15-session, rather than a 15-week, program.

Program Eligibility

[PA 15-211](#) makes changes to eligibility for programs that provide alternatives to incarceration for defendants. It

1. excludes from participation in AR, health care providers or vendors participating in the state's Medicaid program who are charged with (a) 1st degree larceny or (b) 2nd degree larceny involving defrauding a public community of \$2,000 or less;
2. excludes from participation in the pretrial alcohol education

program, people charged with (a) 2nd degree manslaughter with a vessel or (b) 1st degree reckless vessel operation while under the influence, and makes other changes to eligibility based on prior convictions and program usage; and

3. allows people who would otherwise participate in the family violence education program to participate in the supervised diversionary program when the court finds it is appropriate.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Mechanical Restraint Use

[PA 15-183](#) (1) creates a presumption that mechanical restraints (such as shackles) will be removed from a juvenile during juvenile court proceedings before a determination of delinquency, (2) specifies when these restraints may be allowed, and (3) requires the Judicial Branch to keep related statistical information.

Risk and Needs Assessments

[PA 15-58](#) requires DCF to conduct risk and needs assessments to ensure that delinquent girls and boys in the highest risk level are placed in appropriate secure treatment settings. Prior law required DCF to conduct the assessments to ensure only that delinquent boys in the highest risk level were placed in the male-only Connecticut Juvenile Training School. The training school is currently the only secure facility for boys.

Sentencing Juveniles in Adult Court

[PA 15-84](#) makes a number of changes related to sentencing and parole release of offenders who were under age 18 at the time they committed crimes, including:

1. retroactively eliminating (a) life sentences for capital felony and arson murder and (b) convictions for murder with special circumstances;
2. establishing alternative parole eligibility rules that can make someone eligible for parole sooner if he or she was sentenced to more than 10 years in prison;
3. requiring criminal courts, when sentencing a juvenile transferred to adult court and convicted of a class A or B felony, to (a) consider certain mitigating factors of youth and (b) indicate the maximum prison term that may apply and whether the person may be eligible for release under the act's alternative parole eligibility rules; and
4. prohibiting a child convicted of a class A or B felony from waiving a presentence investigation or report and requiring the report to address the same sentencing factors the act requires a criminal court to consider.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015; the provisions regarding capital felony, murder with special circumstances, and arson murder apply regardless of when an offender is or was convicted.

Sex Abuse in Juvenile Facilities

Within available appropriations, [PA 15-218](#) requires state and municipal agencies that incarcerate or detain juvenile offenders, including immigration detainees, to adopt and comply with the applicable standards recommended by the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission. These standards cover preventing, detecting, monitoring, and responding to sexual abuse. The agencies covered are prisons, jails, community correction facilities, juvenile facilities, and lockups.

This requirement already applies to agencies incarcerating adult offenders.

Strategic Planning

[PA 15-183](#) expands the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee's membership and responsibilities. For example, it requires the committee to (1) implement a strategic plan and report on the plan by January 1, 2016 and (2) annually report on certain matters beyond the current January 1, 2017 end date for its responsibilities.

Transferring Juveniles to Adult Court

[PA 15-183](#) changes when cases may or must be transferred from juvenile court to adult criminal court, including:

1. eliminating automatic transfers for children aged 14 through 17 charged with certain class B felonies and

2. raising the minimum age, from 14 to 15, for (a) automatic transfers for other class B felonies or more serious crimes and (b) discretionary transfers for felonies not subject to automatic transfer.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Access to Law Enforcement Records

[PA 15-164](#), expands law enforcement agencies' disclosure obligations under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for records relating to a person's arrest. It requires agencies to disclose the:

1. arrest warrant application and supporting affidavits, if the arrest was made by warrant, or
2. official arrest, incident, or similar report, if the arrest was made without a warrant.

If a judicial authority orders the affidavits or report sealed, in whole or in part, then the agency must disclose (1) the unsealed portion, if applicable, and (2) a report summarizing the circumstances that led to the arrest, without violating the order. The act establishes limited circumstances under which the agency may redact such records.

The act also requires that, during the period when a person's prosecution is pending, law enforcement agencies disclose under FOIA any public record that documents or depicts a person's arrest or custody, unless there is an

applicable statutory exemption from disclosure. At other times, the applicable provisions of FOIA govern disclosure of the record (i.e., the record must be disclosed unless there is a statutory exemption from disclosure).

Booting Vehicles

[PA 15-42](#) regulates the use of wheel locking devices used to immobilize unauthorized vehicles on private property (i.e., "booting"). Among other things, it:

1. limits boot removal fees to \$50 or less and requires 10% of the fee to be remitted to local police;
2. requires entities hired by property owners to boot unauthorized vehicles to notify the local police chief, in a manner he or she directs, at least five days before booting any vehicles in that municipality;
3. requires (a) entities that boot vehicles to notify local police within two hours of doing so in writing or by email and (b) local police, within 48 hours of receiving a notice, to enter the vehicle identification number in specified databases to check if the vehicle has been reported stolen and notify any department that reported it as stolen; and
4. requires entities that boot vehicles to retain police notification records on the property where cars are booted for at least six months and make the records available for inspection by a Department of

Motor Vehicles inspector or local police.

The act also makes it a \$50 infraction for a first time violation of the act's booting requirements and subjects subsequent violators to up to 30 days in prison, a fine of \$50 to \$100, or both.

Damage Caused by Law Enforcement Dogs

The law imposes strict liability on the owner or "keeper" of a dog for any damage to a person or property the dog causes, except when the damage was done to someone who was (1) teasing, tormenting, or abusing the dog or (2) committing trespass or another tort.

[PA 15-26](#) creates a rebuttable presumption that a member of a law enforcement officer's household where the officer keeps a dog assigned to him or her by the town, state, or federal government is not the dog's keeper. (A "rebuttable presumption" is an assumption of fact accepted by the court until disproved.) Therefore, in any action against such a household member for damage done by the dog, the plaintiff has the burden to prove that the household member was the dog's keeper and had exclusive control of the dog.

Day Care Centers Notifications

[PA 15-161](#) requires each day care center licensee to give the center's contact information to the local police department and State Police troop that has jurisdiction where the center is located.

It requires the department or troop to notify licensees that submit this information about any conditions caused by a fire, a criminal act, an emergency, or an act of nature in the day care center's vicinity that may endanger the children's safety or welfare.

Dirt Bike or All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Violation Fines

[PA 15-100](#) subjects a first-time violator of a dirt bike or ATV ordinance to a possible fine. It does so by allowing municipal officers or employees to issue citations without providing a warning of a dirt bike or ATV violation. Previously, as required for other ordinances enforced by citations, a municipal officer or employee had to issue a written warning providing notice of a violation before issuing a citation.

Minority Police Officer Hiring and Promotion

[PA 15-4, June Special Session, §§ 2-3](#), requires law enforcement units, by January 1, 2016, to develop and implement guidelines to recruit, retain, and promote minority police officers. Units serving communities with a relatively high concentration of minority residents must make efforts to recruit, retain, and promote minority officers so that the unit's racial and ethnic diversity is representative of the community.

Parole Officers' Access to Firearm Information

[PA 15-216](#) allows parole officers, when performing their duties, to access

the names and addresses of people (1) issued permits to carry or sell handguns, handgun or long gun eligibility certificates, assault weapon possession certificates, or ammunition certificates or (2) who declared possession of large capacity magazines. By law, this information can also be disclosed to law enforcement officials, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for statutory gun-related responsibilities, and gun or ammunition sellers when required to verify a prospective gun or ammunition buyer's credential.

Police Body Cameras

Beginning July 1, 2016, [PA 15-4, June Special Session, §§ 7 & 8](#), requires sworn officers of the State Police, public university police departments, and municipal police departments that receive state grants under the act, to use body cameras while interacting with the public in their law enforcement capacity. It requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), by January 1, 2016, to jointly create a list of minimal technical specifications for body cameras and digital data storage devices or services.

The act specifies (1) certain activities that officers cannot record with body cameras and (2) when certain images do not need to be disclosed to the public. It requires DESPP and POST

to develop guidelines on equipment use and data retention.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the grant provisions are effective January 1, 2016.

Police Officer Misconduct and Hiring

[PA 15-4, June Special Session, § 6](#), prohibits a law enforcement unit from hiring an officer who (1) was previously dismissed from a unit for malfeasance or serious misconduct or (2) resigned or retired during an investigation for such conduct. It also requires a law enforcement unit to inform another unit about an officer's dismissal, resignation, or retirement under these circumstances if it knows the officer is applying for a position as a police officer with the other unit.

Police Training

[PA 15-4, June Special Session, § 1](#), requires police basic and review training programs conducted by the State Police, POST, and municipal police departments to include training on (1) using physical force; (2) using body-worn recording equipment and retaining the records it creates; and (3) cultural competency, sensitivity, and bias-free policing.

Police Use of Force

[PA 15-4, June Special Session, §§ 4 & 5](#) expands the circumstances when the Division of Criminal Justice must investigate a death involving a

peace officer to include cases involving any use of physical force, not just deadly force as previously required. For these investigations, it requires, rather than allows, the chief state's attorney to appoint a prosecutor from a judicial district other than the one where the incident occurred or a special prosecutor to conduct those investigations.

The act also requires law enforcement units to record information about incidents in which a police officer discharges a firearm or uses physical force that is likely to cause serious physical injury or death.

Pursuit Outside Precinct

Existing law allows local police officers and certain other law enforcement officers to pursue someone outside of their precincts, while in immediate pursuit of someone the officers have authority to arrest. [PA 15-83](#) specifies that this does not apply if the person is alleged to have violated only a municipal ordinance.

Recording Police Activity

[PA 15-4, June Special Session, § 9](#), with some exceptions, makes a peace officer's employer liable in a court or other proceeding if the officer interferes with someone taking a photo or digital still or video image of the officer or another officer performing his or her duties.

Resident State Troopers

Previously, towns participating in the resident trooper program paid 70% of the regular cost and expenses of troopers assigned to the town and 100% of their overtime costs and associated fringe benefits. [PA 15-244, § 170](#), instead requires them to pay 85% of the compensation, maintenance, and other expenses of the first two assigned troopers and 100% of such costs for any additional troopers. They must continue to pay 100% of the overtime costs and the portion of the fringe benefits directly associated with those costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

Showing Pistol Permits

[PA 15-216](#) requires a pistol or revolver permit holder to present his or her permit to a law enforcement officer for purposes of verifying the permit's validity or person's identity if the officer (1) observes the person carrying a pistol or revolver and (2) has reasonable suspicion of a crime. By law, permit holders must carry their permits while carrying a pistol or revolver.

U.S. Marshals as Peace Officers

[PA 15-211, § 18](#), expands the definition of a "peace officer" to include U.S. marshals and deputy marshals. Among other things, this gives them certain arrest powers under state law; access to certain information; and legal protections when using force to

apprehend someone, prevent an escape, or protect themselves or others.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

SCHOOLS

Agreements Governing School Resource Officers

[PA 15-168](#) and [PA 15-5, June Special Session, § 342](#), require a local or regional school board that assigns a sworn police officer to a school (i.e., school resource officer) to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the local police department that defines the officer's role and responsibilities. The MOU must address daily interactions among students, school personnel, and police officers, and include a graduated response model for student discipline.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

Data Reporting

By law, each local and regional school board must submit to the State Department of Education (SDE) commissioner an annual strategic school profile with certain required data (e.g., student performance and school resources) for each of its schools and the district as a whole. [PA 15-168](#) adds to this requirement data on (1) in-school and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions and (2) school-based arrests.

As a separate reporting requirement, SDE must disaggregate the new data the act requires by school, race,

ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, English language learner status, free and reduced price lunch eligibility, offense type, and the number of arrests at each school. SDE must report annually to the State Board of Education (SBE) on the disaggregated data and make the report available to the public on the department's website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

School Employees and Child Abuse Reporting

[PA 15-205](#) expands the mandated reporting requirements for school employees to report suspected child abuse and extends the mandated reporter law protection to high school students ages 18 or older who are not enrolled in an adult education program. Among other things, the act also:

1. requires school employees to report to DCF suspected sexual assault of any student who is not enrolled in adult education by a school employee;
2. requires the (a) principal for each school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education to annually certify to the superintendent that school employees completed mandated reporter training and (b) superintendent to certify compliance to SBE;
3. requires each local or regional board to (a) update its written policy and (b) establish a confidential rapid response team

to coordinate with DCF to ensure prompt reporting;

4. prohibits the boards from hiring someone who was terminated or who resigned after a license suspension for certain convictions, failing to report abuse, or interfering with a mandated reporter; and
5. requires SBE to revoke the certification, permit, or authorization of anyone convicted of certain crimes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015, but certain provisions take effect July 1, 2015.

SENTENCING AND RELEASE FROM PRISON

Board of Pardons and Paroles

PA 15-2, June Special Session

reduces the board's size from 20 to between 10 and 15 members, while increasing the number of members who serve full-time from six to 10. It also removes the prohibition on board members serving on both parole and pardons panels.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2015

Parole Release Without a Hearing

PA 15-2, June Special Session

allows the Board of Pardons and Paroles to consider an inmate for release on parole without a hearing if the (1) inmate was convicted of a non-violent crime, (2) board evaluates the inmate,

and (3) board does not know of any victim of the crime.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

Probation

[PA 15-211, § 1](#), requires a person's probation term to begin after he or she serves any prison sentence.

Risk Reduction Credits

[PA 15-216](#) prohibits an inmate from earning risk reduction credits if he or she was convicted (1) of 1st degree manslaughter, 1st degree manslaughter with a firearm, or aggravated sexual assault of a minor or (2) as a persistent dangerous felony offender or persistent dangerous sexual offender. By law, an inmate eligible for these credits can earn up to five days per month to reduce his or her maximum prison sentence and, if convicted of a non-violent crime, can have his or her parole eligibility based on the sentence as reduced by the credits.

The act also requires:

1. wardens to verify that an inmate being released from a prison earned the credits that are reducing his or her sentence and
2. the Department of Correction (DOC) commissioner, quarterly beginning by January 1, 2016, to report to the General Assembly and post on the DOC website certain information about inmates earning risk reduction credits.

Victim Notification from Judicial Branch

[PA 15-2, June Special Session](#) requires the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services to (1) notify victims registered with the Board of Pardons and Paroles about parole hearings, (2) notify victims and the public about how victims can register for hearing notices, and (3) provide notice or seek to locate certain victims.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

Victim Notification Study

[PA 15-84](#) requires the Sentencing Commission to study how to notify victims of the parole eligibility laws and release mechanisms available to people sentenced to more than two years in prison. The commission must report on its study and any recommendations to the Judiciary Committee by February 1, 2016.

SEX OFFENSES

Sexual Assault Evidence

[PA 15-207](#) makes various changes affecting evidence in sexual assault cases. It establishes deadlines for transferring and processing sexual assault evidence police obtain from health care facilities that collect it.

If an accused seeks to introduce evidence of a victim's sexual conduct in a sexual assault case, the act requires the hearing on the motion to be held in camera (i.e., in private), rather than allowing the court to grant a motion to hold the hearing in that manner. By law, evidence of a victim's sexual

conduct in these cases is admissible only in limited circumstances.

The act requires sealing motions and documents related to these hearings and permits the court to unseal them if it finds the evidence admissible and the case goes to trial.

Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners

[PA 15-16](#) allows sexual assault forensic examiners (SAFEs) to treat sexual assault victims who are patients in certain licensed and accredited health care facilities operated by higher education institutions. The act requires SAFE services to be:

1. aligned with the health care facility's policies and accreditation standards and
2. pursuant to a written agreement between the health care facility and (a) the Department of Public Health (DPH) and (b) the Office of Victim Services, about the facility's participation in the SAFE program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

Sex Assault Sentencing

[PA 15-211, §§ 16 & 17](#), makes changes affecting sentencing for 1st degree sexual assault and 1st degree aggravated sexual assault, such as expanding when the court can order probation for these crimes and increasing the mandatory minimum sentence for the latter crime in some circumstances.

Sex Offender Registration

[PA 15-211, §§ 5-7](#), specifies that the 10-year registration period required for certain sex offenders begins when the offender is released into the community.

Sex Offender Study

[SA 15-2](#) requires the Sentencing Commission to study a number of issues regarding sex offenders including sentencing; risk assessment and management; registry requirements, the information available to the public and law enforcement about sex offenders, whether a tiered system based on risk of re-offense would be effective, and options for appealing an offender's registry status; ways to reduce recidivism; housing opportunities and obstacles for these offenders; victim and survivor needs and services; and community education.

The commission must provide an interim report to the Judiciary Committee by February 1, 2016 and a final report by December 15, 2017.

Statewide Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness Program

[PA 15-5, June Special Session, § 415](#), extends, from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2016, the date by which DCF, together with SDE and Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., or a similar organization, must identify or develop a statewide sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention

program for use by regional and local school boards. It also extends, from October 1, 2015 to October 1, 2016, the date by which school boards must implement the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MISCELLANEOUS

Credit Security Freeze Fees

[PA 15-53, § 9](#), prohibits credit rating agencies from charging certain fees related to credit freezes to:

1. an identity theft victim, his or her spouse, or another person who is covered by certain health insurance policies held by the victim, upon submitting a copy of a police report to the credit rating agency;
2. anyone under age 18 or at least age 62;
3. anyone who has a court-appointed guardian or conservator; or
4. a person who provides evidence to the credit rating agency that he or she is a domestic violence victim.

The fees that would otherwise apply are those for (1) placing, removing, or temporarily lifting a freeze on a person's credit report (up to \$10) or (2) temporarily lifting one for a specific party (up to \$12).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Credit Security Freezes for Minors

[PA 15-62](#) allows a parent or legal guardian of a minor (i.e., under age 18) to place a security freeze on the minor's credit report, prohibiting the credit rating agency from releasing information in the report without the parent's or guardian's express authorization. To initiate a freeze, a parent or guardian must request it in writing and provide the credit rating agency with proper identification and sufficient proof of authority to act for the minor.

Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program Inventories

[PA 15-5, June Special Session, §§ 486-489](#), requires the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD), DOC, DCF, and DMHAS, by January 1, 2016, to (1) compile complete lists of each agency's criminal and juvenile justice programs and (2) categorize them as evidence-based, research-based, promising, or lacking any evidence. The agencies must also do this by October 1 every even-numbered year after that.

The agencies must submit their program inventories to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), legislature, Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA), and Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at Central Connecticut State University. IMRP must use the data to develop a cost-benefit analysis for each program and

report its analyses to OPM, the legislature, and OFA, by March 1, 2016 and by each November 1 thereafter. OPM and OFA can use the analyses in their annual fiscal accountability reports to the legislature.

Under the act, OPM must also (1) review the inventories and analyses to meet its existing requirement to develop a plan to promote a more effective and cohesive state criminal justice system and (2) consider incorporating them in its budget recommendations to the legislature.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015, except certain provisions are effective July 1, 2016.

Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS)

[PA 15-1, June Special Session, §§ 2\(d\) & 21\(c\)](#), authorizes \$27.1 million in general obligation bonds (\$17.1 million in FY 16 and \$10 million in FY 17) for designing and implementing CJIS (an electronic offender-based tracking system which contains offender and case data on crimes, violations, and infractions).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015 for the FY 16 authorization and July 1, 2016 for the FY 17 authorization.

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission Membership

[PA 15-44](#) adds the veterans' affairs commissioner or his designee as a member of the commission, with

authority to vote on matters concerning veterans in the criminal justice system, including the reentry needs of incarcerated veterans. By law, the commission analyzes the criminal justice system, recommends policy priorities, and advises the governor and legislature.

Cybersecurity Study

Within available appropriations, [SA 15-13](#) requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), with DESPP, to study cybersecurity issues facing Connecticut. It must recommend actions the state can take to promote and coordinate communication between government entities, law enforcement, higher education institutions, the private sector, and the public to improve cybersecurity preparedness. DAS must report to the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2017.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Domestic Violence

[PA 15-211, §§ 19-24](#), makes three changes related to domestic violence. It:

1. creates a 16-member Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards Advisory Council to promulgate, review, update, and amend the domestic violence offender program standards;
2. extends to family violence victims the right to keep certain information confidential, as

existing law allows for certain sexual assault victims; and

3. changes the scope of the Superior Courts' local family violence intervention units' role in providing victim and offender treatment services ([PA 15-5, June Special Session, § 441](#), also makes changes to these provisions).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the advisory council provisions, July 1, 2015 for the victim confidentiality provisions, and January 1, 2016 for the intervention unit provisions.

Elder Abuse

[PA 15-236](#) makes a number of changes regarding elder abuse. Among other things, it:

1. makes certain emergency medical service providers mandated reporters of elderly abuse and expands training requirements for employees of certain entities who care for adults ages 60 or older;
2. gives abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned elderly people a civil cause of action against perpetrators;
3. requires certain financial agents to receive training on elderly fraud, exploitation, and financial abuse;
4. requires the Commission on Aging to (a) study best practices for reporting and identifying elderly abuse, neglect, exploitation, and abandonment and (b) create a portal of training

resources for financial institutions and agents; and

5. makes changes in definitions of elderly neglect and necessary services.

The act also prohibits someone convicted of 1st or 2nd degree larceny or 1st degree abuse of an elderly, blind, or disabled person or person with intellectual disabilities from inheriting, receiving insurance benefits, or receiving certain property from a deceased victim. It makes changes to the disposition of certain types of jointly owned personal property when one owner is convicted of one of these or certain other crimes against another owner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

Extradition Study

[PA 15-211, § 2](#), creates a task force to study ways to reduce extradition costs and the feasibility of vacating bond forfeiture orders under certain circumstances.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

Human Trafficking

[PA 15-195](#) makes a number of changes related to human trafficking. Among other things, it:

1. broadens the conditions under which a human trafficking crime is committed when the victim is under age 18;

2. requires DPH to provide human trafficking victims the same services it must provide certain sexual assault victims under existing law;
3. allows the Office of Victim Services, under certain circumstances, to waive the time limitation on crime victim compensation applications for minors who are human trafficking victims;
4. upon request, requires a court to order the erasure of a juvenile's police or court records after discharge from court supervision or court-ordered custody if the child's criminal record is the result of being a victim of human trafficking or related federal crimes;
5. expands the list of crimes, including human trafficking, for which wiretapping is authorized; and
6. increases, from 20 to 22, the membership of the Trafficking in Persons Council.

Pardons

PA 15-2, June Special Session

expands the Board of Pardons and Paroles chairman's authority, in consultation with the board's executive director, to adopt regulations on an expedited pardons review process. It allows anyone convicted of a nonviolent crime to receive a pardon under such an expedited process without a hearing unless a victim requests one.

The act also requires the board to develop a pardon eligibility notice explaining the pardons process and requires providing the notice to people when they are sentenced; are released from DOC; and complete parole, probation, or conditional discharge.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2015 for the expedited pardons provision and July 1, 2015 for the pardon eligibility notice provision.

Psychiatric Security Review Board

PA 15-211, § 14, no longer requires the board, when conditionally releasing someone under its jurisdiction, to require that the person have outpatient treatment (although treatment is still required).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

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