

2024 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services
Office of Chief Public Defender



145 years ago, in January 1879, the Connecticut State Capitol opened for the legislative session of the General Assembly. “The Genius of Connecticut”, a bronze statue symbolizing long life and strength, was displayed on top of the Capitol’s dome. In 1938, Genius was removed from the dome due to fear of damage from a hurricane that hit the east coast. The statute was donated to the federal government 4 years later to assist in creating ammunition and machine parts during World War II.

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Attorney Deborah Del Prete Sullivan
Legal Counsel, Director/Legislative Liaison
deborah.d.sullivan@pds.ct.gov

Attorney Benedict R. Daigle
Deputy Asst. Public Defender
benedict.daigle@pds.ct.gov

Dominica Zdonek
Administrative Assistant
dominica.zdonek@pds.ct.gov

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Connecticut
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2024 Public Acts Adopted During the 2024 Legislative Session

The following is a summary of the Public Acts passed during the 2024 Legislative Session pertaining to criminal proceedings, juvenile delinquency, and child protection.

Thank you to Ben Daigle, Deputy Assistant Public Defender; Dominica Zdonek, Administrative Assistant of this office; Trinity College intern Vanessa Tebesigwa; John Day, Acting Chief Public Defender; Rene Cimino, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection; the Public Defender Legislative Committee; and everyone who proposed or testified on legislation this year. If you have questions, please contact Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director, at (860) 509-6405 or deborah.d.sullivan@pds.ct.gov.

ANIMALS

➤ **P.A. 24-65** **An Act Requiring Restitution When a Police Animal or Dog in Volunteer Canine Search and Rescue Team is Injured or Killed**

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2024

This act amends subsections (d) C.G.S. §53-247, *Cruelty to animals. Animals engaged in exhibition of fighting. Intentional injury or killing of police animals or dogs in volunteer canine search and rescue teams.*, to require that the court order the person to pay restitution if convicted of intentionally injuring an animal in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a peace officer or intentionally injures a dog which is in a volunteer canine search and rescue team, a class D felony. Restitution is required to be ordered payable to the law enforcement unit, entity or individual that owns the animal or dog. And such restitution can include and not be limited to

In addition, the act amends subsection (e) of C.G.S. §53-247, *Cruelty to animals. Animals engaged in exhibition of fighting. Intentional injury or killing of police animals or dogs in volunteer canine search and rescue teams.*, to require the court to order a person to pay restitution if convicted of intentionally killing an animal under the supervision of a peace officer or intentionally kills a dog which is in a volunteer canine search and rescue team while in the performance of its duties. Current penalty for a person so convicted is a \$10,000 fine and incarceration up to 10 years. An order of restitution is required to be ordered for costs, including but not limited to vet services. If the animal is unable to

perform its duties, restitution can also be ordered to pay for the costs and expenses to purchase and train a replacement animal.

See also: [P.A. 24-108](#) **An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings**

BACKGROUND CHECKS

See: [P.A. 24-43](#) **An Act Concerning Firearms Background Checks**

BODY CAMS

➤ [P.A. 24-15](#) **An Act Concerning the Use of Police Body-Worn Recording Equipment**

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2024

This section amends C.G.S. §7-294s, *State and local police training programs to provide training in the use of physical force and body-worn recording equipment and cultural competency and sensitivity training.*, to clarify that training administered by the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) include then an officer is not permittee to pause body worn recording equipment.

Section 2 Effective from passage

This section amends subsection (j) of C.G.S. §29-6d, *Use of body-worn recording equipment and dashboard cameras. When recording prohibited. Retention of data.*, to require that guidelines of DESPP and POST, on the use of body-worn recording equipment and dashboard cameras, shall also include when such equipment shall not be paused.

CHILDREN/JUVENILES/YOUTH - CHILD PROTECTION

➤ [P.A. 24-118](#) **An Act Concerning Child Sexual Abuse**

Section 1 Effective July 1, 2024

This section amends C.G.S. §10-217h, *Connecticut School Health Survey; administration.*, to expand the content of the Connecticut School Health Survey to include a survey on “sexual abuse and assault awareness prevention.

Section 2 *Effective October 1, 2024*

These sections, all effective October 1, 2024, amend the following statutes to substitute the phrase “child pornography” with “sexual abuse material throughout.

Subdivision (13) of C.G.S. §53a-193, *Definitions*.

C.G.S. §53a-196c, *Importing child pornography: Class B felony*.

C.G.S. §53a-196d, *Possessing child pornography in the first degree: Class B felony*.

C.G.S. §53a-196e, *Possessing child pornography in the second degree: Class C felony*.

C.G.S. §53a-196f, *Possessing child pornography in the third degree: Class D felony*.

C.G.S. §53a-196g, *Possessing child pornography: Affirmative defenses*.

C.G.S. §53a-196h, *Possessing or transmitting child pornography by minor: Class A misdemeanor*.

C.G.S. §54-86m, *Reproduction of property or material that constitutes child pornography prohibited*.

Subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of C.G.S. §19a-343, *State action to abate public nuisance. Offenses*.

Section 12 *Effective from passage*

This section requires the Office of the Child Advocate to review the policies and procedures of state agencies in Probate Court guardianship proceedings regarding the care and protection of minors. The section further requires the Child Advocate to submit a report on its findings to the General Assembly not later than January 1, 2025.

➤ [P.A. 24-126](#) **An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Office of Child Advocate**

Section 1 *Effective July 1, 2024*

This amends C.G.S. §17a-4, *State Advisory Council on Children and Families. Appointment. Powers and duties.*, to add to the membership and duties of the State Advisory Council on Children and Families.

Section 2 *Effective July 1, 2024*

This amends C.G.S. §17a-15a, *Inclusion of information in documents concerning permanent placement plan.*, to add various topics to those which must be addressed in Department of Children and Family (DCF) permanency planning.

Section 3 *Effective July 1, 2024*

This amends subsection (g) of C.G.S. §17a-28, *Definitions. Confidentiality and access to records; exceptions. Procedure for aggrieved persons.*, by adding a new subdivision (34) requiring DCF to disclose publicly records regarding incidents of abuse or neglect resulting in a child or youth's death or near death.

Section 4 *Effective July 1, 2024*

This amends subsection (h) of C.G.S. §17a-28, *Definitions. Confidentiality and access to records; exceptions. Procedure for aggrieved persons.*, consistent with the change in section 3 of this public act.

Section 5 *Effective July 1, 2024*

This amends subsection (j) of C.G.S. §46b-129, *Commitment of child or youth. Petition for neglected, uncared for or abused child or youth. Hearing re temporary custody, order to appear or petition. Review of permanency plan. Cost of care and maintenance of child or youth; reimbursement. Revocation of commitment. Legal guardianships and permanent legal guardianships. Applicability of provisions re placement of child from another state and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.*, to define "trial home visit" and authorize DCF, with the agreement of all parties of record, to authorize a trial home visit after the court approves a permanency plan that recommends reunification and before the revocation of the commitment order.

Section 6 *Effective July 1, 2024*

This amends subsections (p) to (t), inclusive, of C.G.S. 46b-129, *Commitment of child or youth. Petition for neglected, uncared for or abused child or youth. Hearing re temporary custody, order to appear or petition. Review of permanency plan. Cost of care and maintenance of child or youth; reimbursement. Revocation of commitment. Legal guardianships and permanent legal guardianships. Applicability of provisions re placement of child from another state and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.*, to expand certain notice requirements with regard to court proceedings addressing permanency planning.

Section 7 Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S. §46b-129, *Commitment of child or youth. Petition for neglected, uncared for or abused child or youth. Hearing re temporary custody, order to appear or petition. Review of permanency plan. Cost of care and maintenance of child or youth; reimbursement. Revocation of commitment. Legal guardianships and permanent legal guardianships. Applicability of provisions re placement of child from another state and Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.*, by adding new subsections (u) to (w), inclusive, to verify, prior to the issuance of any order affecting the legal status or placement of a child (under this section) that certain diligence has been done by the various professionals involved; require that DCF file certain information with the court in any proceeding to review, modify, terminate, or extend an order of protective supervision; and require DCF to identify the source and certain other data regarding any documentation, statements, or allegations in its submissions to the court.

Section 8 Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S. §46b-129a, *Examination by physician, psychiatrist or psychologist. Counsel and guardian ad litem. Testimony. Evidence.*, to require that the guardian ad litem be prepared to present to the court, at any hearing, regarding the best interests of the child; it removes the requirement of such presentation.

Section 9 Effective from passage

This new law establishes a working group to review data and information regarding the effectiveness of DCF in discharging its child protection responsibilities and to develop a plan for the regular public dissemination of such data and information. The working group membership includes the Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's designee. The working group shall submit findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, and terminate upon such submission or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

Section 10 Effective from passage

This new law establishes a working group to review the delivery of legal services to children in child protection proceedings. The working group membership includes the Chief Public Defender or the Chief Public Defender's designee. The working group shall submit findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Office of the Chief Public Defender, and terminate upon such submission or November 1, 2024, whichever is later.

Section 11 Effective July 1, 2024

This amends section 2-128a to extend (from July 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025) the deadline for the working group convened and led by the Connecticut General Assembly Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity (CWCSEO) to submit the Title IX compliance toolkit to the General Assembly. It correspondingly extends the duration of the working group.

Section 12 Effective July 1, 2024

This amends section 10-11c to extend (from October 1, 2024, to April 1, 2025) the deadline for the Department of Education to distribute the Title IX compliance toolkit to local and regional boards of education and provide technical assistance to such boards in the implementation of such toolkit.

➤ [P.A. 24-140](#) **An Act Concerning the Commissary Implementation Plan for Youth in Department of Correction Facilities**

Section 1 Effective from passage

This amends section 127 of Public Act 23-204, *An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor, And Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget*, to require that not later than July 1, 2024, the Commissioner of Correction, in consultation with the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), report to the General Assembly regarding the implementation of the plan required under P.A. 23-204 and any recommendations for changes to the plan or the implementation of the plan. Per P.A. 23-204, the plan addresses various aspects of the commissary system as they apply to youths in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities, with a focus on positive youth behaviors and expectations, cultural responsiveness, equitable access to commissary, menstrual products, transfer of saved funds to an adult facility upon a youth's transfer, ongoing training and assistance, continuous quality improvement, and biannual surveys or focus groups to obtain feedback from such youths regarding the commissary system and the implementation of the plan.

See also: [P.A. 24-139](#) **An Act Concerning Recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee**

CLAIMS COMMISSIONER/COMPENSATION

See: [P.A. 24-106](#) **An Act Concerning Compensation for Persons Who Are Wrongfully Incarcerated**

COMPETENCY

See: [P.A. 24-137](#) An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

See: [P.A. 24-137](#) An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.

[P.A. 24-140](#) An Act Concerning the Commissary Implementation Plan for Youth in Department of Correction Facilities

COURT REPORTERS/TRANSCRIPTS

➤ [P.A. 24-72](#) An Act Concerning the Transcript Fees Charged by Official Court Reporters and Court Reporting Monitors

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2023

This section amends C.G.S §51-63, *Official court reporter and court recording monitor charges for transcripts. Official and assistant stenographers of the Workers' Compensation Commission charges for transcripts.*, to increase payments to court reporters and court reporting monitors for transcripts. The act increases the fees for non-public officials as follows:

| <u>Current Fee</u> | <u>Fee Change as of October 1, 2024</u> |
|-------------------------|---|
| \$3 per transcript page | \$3.60 per transcript page |
| \$1.75 per page copy | \$2.10 per page copy |

In addition, the act increases the fees for public officials (non-judicial officer/employee) as follows:

| <u>Current Fee</u> | <u>Fee Change as of October 1, 2024</u> |
|----------------------------|---|
| \$2.00 per transcript page | \$2.40 per transcript page |
| \$.75 per page copy | \$.90 per page copy |

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

See: [P.A. 24-127](#) **An Act Concerning the Criminal Justice Response to Victims of Sexual Abuse**

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

➤ [P.A. 24-137](#) **An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.**

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2024

This section amends subsection (c) of C.G.S §29-38c, *Person posing risk of imminent personal injury to self or others. Firearms or other deadly weapons or ammunition. Warrant for seizure. Risk protection order prohibiting acquisition or possession and* authorizes the appointment of counsel for any person who is indigent and already represented by a public defender or an assigned counsel in a pending criminal proceeding.

Section 2 Effective October 1, 2024

This section amends C.G.S §14-227b, *Implied consent to test operator's blood, breath or urine and to nontestimonial portion of drug influence evaluation. Testing procedures. License suspension. Hearing.* It eliminates, as a condition to operating a motor vehicle, the requirement of installing and maintaining an ignition interlock device if a person has been arrested for violating:

- C.G.S §14- 227a, *Operation while under the influence of liquor or drug or while having an elevated blood alcohol content;*
- C.G.S §14-227m, *Operation of motor vehicle with a child passenger while under the influence of liquor or drug or while having an elevated blood alcohol content. Procedures. Penalties; or,*
- subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of C.G.S §14- 227n, *Operation of a school bus, student transportation vehicle or vehicle specifically designated to carry children by person under the influence of liquor or drug or while having an elevated blood alcohol content. Procedures. Penalties,*

under the following circumstances:

“(1) for which the only intoxicating substance detected is cannabis:

- (A) All charges resulting from such alleged violation are withdrawn, nolleed or dismissed;
- (B) the person has been acquitted of any charges resulting from such alleged violation; or
- (C) any conviction of such person based upon any charges resulting from such alleged violation is vacated, overturned, or erased, or

(2) for which the person was convicted for such violation, alcohol was detected as an intoxicating substance for such violation and such person has received an absolute pardon for each such conviction.”

The act provides that upon the ceasing of the application of this requirement, the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) **must provide the person with “written notification . . . that such requirement and condition has ceased to apply to such person.”**

Section 3 Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date

This is new legislation which provides that any offense committed utilizing a computer service, computer network, cellular system, or an electronic communication service as defined under state or federal law, including e-mail, text messages or other messages sent electronically through digital media account or messaging program, “may be deemed to have been committed” either where it originated from or where it was received.

Section 4 Effective October 1, 2024

This section amends C.G.S §18-85, *Compensation of inmates. Deposit in account. Disbursement priorities* and establishes a rate of compensation for inmates of not less than \$1 per day. It also authorizes the payment of a higher rate based upon the inmate’s skill “or other factors as determined by the Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner.”

Section 5 Effective October 1, 2024

This section amends C.G.S §54-53, *Release by correctional officials*, regarding bail for persons detained in a community correction center to provide for the posting of cash bail to be in an amount rounded down to the nearest dollar.

Section 6 *Effective October 1, 2024*

This section amends subsection (i) of C.G.S §54-56d, *Competency to stand trial*, and provides the following factors for the court to consider when determining the least restrictive placement that is appropriate and available to restore a person’s competency:

- “(A) The nature and circumstances of the alleged crime;
- (B) such defendant's record of criminal convictions;
- (C) such defendant's record of appearance in court;
- (D) such defendant's family and community ties;
- (E) such defendant's willingness and ability to engage with treatment ordered under this section;
- (F) whether such defendant's use of substances would interfere with such defendant's ability to be successful in such placement;
- (G) any psychiatric symptoms experienced by such defendant and the nature and severity of the symptoms; and
- (H) any other relevant factors specific to the defendant and such defendant's circumstances.”

The act further provides that the court should presume that outpatient treatment is the least restrictive and appropriate placement, in circumstances where the defendant is not charged with a felony, unless there is good cause to find otherwise.

Section 7 *Effective July 1, 2024*

This section amends subsection (c) of C.G.S §51-49i, *Right to retirement salary of judge, family support magistrate or administrative law judge retiring on or after July 1, 2022*, in regard to the retirement salary of judges, family support magistrates and administrative law judges.

Section 8 *Effective October 1, 2024*

This amends subsection (a) of C.G.S §53a-40e, *Standing criminal protective orders*, to add the category of not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect to the list of convicted offenses eligible for the court to enter a standing criminal protective order.

CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS

See: [**P.A. 24-137**](#) **An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

See: [P.A. 24-108](#) An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings

DISCRIMINATION

See: [P.A. 24-108](#) An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings

ELECTIONS-RELATED OFFENSES

➤ [P.A. 24-135](#) An Act Concerning the Period of Time During Which Elections-Related Crimes May be Prosecuted

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2024, and applicable to any offense committed on or after October 1, 2024, and to any offense committed prior to October 1, 2024, for which the statute of limitations in effect at the time of the commission of the offense had not yet expired as of October 1, 2024, or to any offense for which a complaint, statement or evidence concerning such offense is referred by the State Elections Enforcement Commission to the Chief State's Attorney on or after April 1, 2024.

This is new legislation which prohibits the prosecution of persons for election related crimes which result from a referral by the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to the Chief State's Attorney except:

"during the period of time that (1) is prescribed by section 54-193 of the general statutes; or (2) begins on the date of such referral and ends six months following the date of such referral (to DCJ), whichever period of time ends later."

EMOTIONAL HARM

See: [P.A. 24-108](#) An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings

FIREARMS

➤ [P.A. 24-43](#) An Act Concerning Firearms Background Checks

Section 1 Effective July 1, 2024

This section amends subsection (d) of C.G.S. §46b-124, *Confidentiality of records of juvenile matters. Exceptions.*, to provide access to records in juvenile delinquency matters

to authorized persons and employees in municipal, state or federal governmental agencies that evaluate transfers of firearms to persons under the age of 21 year whether in Connecticut or another state.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

➤ **P.A. 24-56** **An Act Exempting Certain Law Enforcement Records From Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act**

Section 1 Effective July 1, 2024

This section amends subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of C.G.S. §1-210, *Access to public records. Exempt records*, to add to the list of law enforcement records which are exempt from public disclosure, the identity of mandated reporters pursuant to subsection (b) of C.G.S §17a-101, *Protection of children from abuse. Mandated reporters. Educational and training programs. Model mandated reporting policy*.

Current law already provides an exemption from public disclosure for a signed statement of a witness. This section expands the exemption to now include the sworn statements of a witness.

Section 2 Effective July 1, 2024

This section amends subdivision (27) of subsection (b) of C.G.S. §1-210, *Access to public records. Exempt records.*, again to expand the list of law enforcement records which are exempt from public disclosure. Current law provides an exemption for “a photograph, film, video or digital or other visual image depicting the victim of a homicide in certain situations. This section extends the exemption to “(A)(i) A victim of domestic or sexual abuse; (ii) a victim of homicide or suicide, or (iii) a deceased victim of an accident” if disclosure “could reasonably be expected” to be an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the victim or his/her surviving family members”.

Lastly, the exemption is expanded to exclude from public disclosure a photograph, film, video or digital or other visual image depicting a minor unless disclosure is required pursuant to C.G.S. §29-6d(g)(2), *Use of body-worn recording equipment and dashboard cameras. When recording prohibited. Retention of data*.

- [P.A. 24-81](#) **An Act Concerning Allocations of Federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds and Provisions Related to General Government, Human Services, Education, and the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025**

Section 99 Effective from passage

This is new legislation and pertains to freedom of information requests received by state agencies for information/records/data it has received from another state agency. Under current law, some information can be and is shared between state agencies. This legislation requires a state agency who has received information/records/data from another state agency, to refer any freedom of information request for such information to that state agency, the originator of the records, for a response.

See also: [P.A. 24-108](#) **An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings**

GENDER RESPONSIVENESS SUBCOMMITTEE

See: [P.A. 24-139](#) **An Act Concerning Recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee**

IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICES

See: [P.A. 24-137](#) **An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.**

JUDGES

See: [P.A. 24-137](#) **An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.**

JUDICIAL

- [P.A. 24-108](#) **An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings**

Section 1 Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §4a-60, *Nondiscrimination and affirmative action provisions in awarding agency, municipal public works and quasi-public agency project contracts.*, to add “status as a victim of domestic violence” to the list of protected classes in

nondiscrimination provisions currently required in most project contracts of state agencies, municipal public works, and quasi-public agencies.

Section 2 *Effective July 1, 2024*

This amends C.G.S §14-140, *Release on own recognizance. Report of failure to appear or to pay fine or fee, surcharge or cost. Reciprocal agreements. Opening of judgment.*, under which courts must report certain situations to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to add to that list the situation in which a person “wilfully fails to comply with remote events and deadlines set by the court for infractions and violations specified in section 51-164n...”

Section 3 *Effective October 1, 2024*

This amends C.G.S §29-38c, *Person posing risk of imminent personal injury to self or others. Firearms or other deadly weapons or ammunition. Warrant for seizure. Risk protection order prohibiting acquisition or possession.*, to allow affidavits for risk protection orders to be sworn to by the complainant in or “electronically with simultaneous sight and sound.” (See also sections 16 and 19.)

Section 4-7, 9-15, 17, 18 *Effective from passage*

These change various statutes to reflect current practice insofar as certain responsibilities are executed by the chief court administrator rather than the executive committee of superior court judges.

Section 16 *Effective October 1, 2024*

This amends C.G.S §51-193c, *Filing of document or data by computer, facsimile transmission or other technology. Use of technology for required payments. Electronic signature and verification. Standards. Rules.*, to add warrants and any forms related to such warrant, affidavits, and findings to the list of documents eligible to be “signed or verified by computer or facsimile transmission or by employing other technology in accordance with procedures and technical standards, if any, established by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.” (See also sections 3 and 19.)

Section 19 *Effective October 1, 2024*

This amends C.G.S §54-33a, *Issuance of search warrant, warrant for tracking device or warrant for foreign corporation records or data. No-knock warrants prohibited.*, to allow affidavits for search warrants, tracking device warrants, and warrants for foreign corporation records or data to be sworn to by the complainant in or “electronically with simultaneous sight and sound.” (See also sections 3 and 16.)

Section 20

Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §54-63c, *Duties of law enforcement officer or probation officer serving warrant re arrested person. Interview and release of arrested person.*, to require that an arresting officer provide to the bail commissioner or intake assessment and referral specialist identifying information about the victim for the purpose of enabling such bail commissioner or intake assessment and referral specialist to perform their duties.

Section 21

Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §54-91c, *Women attendants*, to broaden the opportunity for victims in criminal cases to appear before the court for the purpose of making a statement for the record; the opportunity no longer is limited to situations in which the defendant is pleading to a lesser offense than the offense originally charged.

Section 22

Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §54-201 (definitions used in C.G.S. §54-201 – C.G.S. §54-235) to remove from the definition of “emotional harm” the requirement that the mental or emotional impairment require treatment through services.

Section 23

Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §54-203, *Office of Victim Services established. Powers and duties.*, to increase from fifteen to twenty the number of people on the Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime, and to specify that members may include those representing victims of gun violence.

Section 24

Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §54-210, *Compensation ordered for expenses, loss of earnings, pecuniary loss and other losses.*, to expand victim eligibility compensation for pecuniary loss; under this public act, eligibility is extended to an injured victim or the relatives or dependents of an injured victim or deceased victim for attendance at hearings of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB).

Section 25

Effective July 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §54-211, *Time limitation on filing application for compensation. Restrictions on award of compensation. Amount of compensation.*, to extend from two years to three years following the personal injury or death the period during which a person may apply to the Office of Victim Services (OVS) victim compensation program. It also removes the requirement that the incident or offense must have been reported to the

police within five days of the occurrence or within five days of when such report could reasonably have been made. It also makes personal injury compensable, capped at fifteen thousand dollars, and broadens the purposes of compensation in cases of emotional harm to include security measures.

Section 26

Effective October 1, 2024

This new law provides that a document may be acknowledged by an individual who is not in the physical presence of the commissioner of the Superior Court, and sets forth processes and requirements for same, including that after such remote acknowledgement, the individual must mail or otherwise cause to be delivered the original copy to the commissioner of the Superior Court.

Section 27

Effective October 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §22-329a, *Seizure and custody of neglected or cruelly treated animals. Vesting of ownership of animal. Animal abuse cost recovery account.*, to, among other purposes, exempt from disclosure under state law (including Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)), except pursuant to the issuance of a lawful subpoena, any record containing the name, address, or other personally identifying information of the new owner(s) of an animal removed from a prior owner as a result of an animal neglect or cruelty case.

Section 28

Effective October 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §22-358, *Killing of dogs doing damage. Restraint or disposal orders. Notice. Seizure. Euthanasia and examination of potentially rabid animals. Complaints by persons sustaining damage by dog to poultry, ratite, domestic rabbit, companion animal or livestock. Orders. Appeals.*, to, among other purposes, allow any owner or keeper of any animal or poultry, or agent of such owner or keeper, or any animal control officer or any police officer, to kill any dog while the dog is the act of biting, attacking, or pursuing any such person. Certain follow-up reports and investigation must be done. It eliminates the requirement that a person be bitten or show other visible evidence of attack by a dog, cat, or other animal when such person is not on the premises of such animal's owner and kills such animal; under this public act, the person must have been "protecting himself or herself or another person or animal from physical harm while being bitten or attacked" by such animal, and the same follow-up process applies. This public act provides for the issuance and appeal of certain court orders in such cases. This public act also provides that a dog, while biting, attacking, or pursuing deer, may be killed by certain people, and that the owner of such dog shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

Section 29

Effective October 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §52-380a, *Judgment lien on real property*, to require that in the case of a consumer judgment, the judgment creditor shall take certain steps to inform the judgment debtor of the Ezequiel Santiago Foreclosure Mediation Program (see C.G.S §49-31m, *Ezequiel Santiago Foreclosure Mediation Program*).

Section 32

Effective October 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §1-206, *Denial of access to public records or meetings. Appeals. Notice. Orders. Civil penalty. Petition for relief from vexatious requester. Service of process upon commission. Frivolous appeals. Appeal re state hazardous waste program records.*, to remove the requirement that Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) matters be brought in the New Britain Superior Court, replacing that with “the superior court for the judicial district in which the public agency is located.”

Section 33

Effective October 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §51-344a, *Term “judicial district of Hartford-New Britain” deemed to refer to “judicial district of Hartford” on and after September 1, 1998.*, to further effectuate the statutory change in § 32.

Section 40

Effective October 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §22-357, *Damage by dogs to person or property.*, to make the owner or keeper of a dog liable for damage the dog causes to another person or such other person’s property; this does not apply if such other person was at the time such damage was done committing a trespass or other tort, or was teasing, tormenting, or abusing such dog.

Section 42

Effective from passage

This amends C.G.S §54-142t, *Automated process for erasure of criminal records.*, to require that any agency holding records subject to the state’s automated process for erasure assist the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) in carrying out such processes, including by providing all necessary information to DESPP.

JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (JJPOC)

➤ [P.A. 24-139](#) **An Act Concerning Recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee**

Section 1 Effective from passage

This amends C.G.S. §46b-121n, *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee Reports.*, by adding a new subsection establishing and setting the scope of a gender responsiveness subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), which subcommittee shall, among other tasks, perform a landscape analysis and gap assessment of gender responsive work; receive and consider input from youths, families, and communities directly impacted by any gaps in gender responsive work; review national best practices; review previous work and legislation in this subject area; identify any gaps in gender responsive work resulting from system or programmatic changes; review existing work and practices in this subject area among agencies and community providers; review data, including how various offense types are handled within the juvenile justice system; develop a data framework to produce annual reports on police data on human trafficking; and develop policy and legislative recommendations, on various dimensions of the issue, for consideration by the JJPOC. The subcommittee is required to collaborate with the state's Trafficking in Persons Council and the state's Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee.

Section 2 Effective from passage

This extends the date (from November 1, 2023, to November 1, 2024) by which various state entities must develop a reentry success plan for youths released from the Department of Correction (DOC) and facilities and programs under the jurisdiction of or under contract with the Judicial Department. It also provides that the use of a credible messenger as a mentor or transition support provider under the plan may be for a period lasting up to two years following such individual's release from DOC / such facilities and programs. Additionally, it requires that the plan ensures that youths have access to certain job readiness and career training programs, as well as support in seeking and finding employment prior to release and sustaining such employment after release. Lastly, it extends the date (from January 1, 2024, to December 1, 2024) by which the leaders of the state agencies responsible for the plan must report the plan to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC).

Section 3 *Effective from passage*

This amends C.G.S. §46a-170, *Trafficking in Persons Council. Membership. Duties. Reports.*, to require that the Trafficking in Persons Council (administratively within the Connecticut General Assembly Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity (CWCSEO)) collaborate with the JJPOC's gender responsiveness subcommittee.

Section 4 *Effective from passage*

This amends C.G.S. §2-137, *Behavioral and Mental Health Policy and Oversight Committee. Duties. Membership. Strategic plan. Report.*, to require that the state's Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee collaborate with the JJPOC's gender responsiveness subcommittee.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

See: [P.A. 24-15](#) **An Act Concerning the Use of Police Body-Worn R
Recording Equipment**

[P.A. 24-56](#) **An Act Exempting Certain Law Enforcement Records
From Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act**

[P.A. 24-65](#) **An Act Requiring Restitution When a Police Animal
or Dog in Volunteer Canine Search and Rescue Team is Injured or
Killed**

[P.A. 24-127](#) **An Act Concerning the Criminal Justice Response to
Victims of Sexual Abuse**

MANDATED REPORTERS

See: [P.A. 24-56](#) **An Act Exempting Certain Law Enforcement Records
From Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act**

MOTOR VEHICLES

➤ [P.A. 24-14](#) **An Act Concerning Military Training and Experience and the
Driver's License Endorsement to Operate Fire Apparatus**

Section 1 *Effective October 1, 2024*

This amends C.G.S §14-36a, *Classification of operators' licenses. Designations; endorsements. Penalty.*, allow certain military training to constitute qualifying training for

a “Q” driver’s license endorsement (indicating eligibility to operate fire apparatus) for certain individuals already holding a license of any class. Veterans must apply not more than two years after the date of their discharge from the military, and must, not more than two years prior to such discharge, have met certain federal conditions and limitations. Members of the armed forces or the National Guard must meet those same conditions and limitations. The commissioner of motor vehicles shall waive the requirement that such individuals demonstrate that they possess the skills necessary for operation of fire apparatus.

MOTOR VEHICLES

See: [**P.A. 24-108**](#) **An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings**

[**P.A. 24-137**](#) **An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.**

OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

See: [**P.A. 24-137**](#) **An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.**

PRETRIAL FAMILY VIOLENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

➤ [**P.A. 24-129**](#) **An Act Concerning Eligibility for Participation in a Pretrial Family Violence Education Program**

Section 1 Effective October 1, 2024

This amends C.G.S §46b-38c, Family violence response and intervention units. Local units. Duties and functions. Protective orders. Electronic monitoring pilot program. Pretrial family violence education program; fees. Training program., to expand Pretrial Family Violence Education Program (FVEP) eligibility to include an individual charged with violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of C.G.S §53-21, Injury or risk of injury to, or impairing morals of, children. Sale of children., (risk of injury; “wilfully or unlawfully causes or permits any child under the age of sixteen years to be placed in such a situation that the life or limb of such child is endangered, the health of such child is likely to be injured or the morals of such child are likely to be impaired, or does any act likely to impair the

health or morals of any such child”) if good cause is shown. A, B, and other C felonies remain ineligible.

RISK PROTECTION

See: [P.A. 24-108](#) An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings

[P.A. 24-137](#) An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.

SEARCH WARRANTS

See: [P.A. 24-108](#) An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings

SEXUAL ABUSE

See: [P.A. 24-127](#) An Act Concerning the Criminal Justice Response to Victims of Sexual Abuse

STANDING PROTECTIVE ORDERS

See: [P.A. 24-137](#) An Act Concerning Revisions To Various Laws Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices, The Department Of Correction, Judicial Retirement Salaries And Criminal Law And Criminal Procedure.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

See: [P.A. 24-135](#) An Act Concerning the Period of Time During Which Elections-Related Crimes May be Prosecuted

VICTIMS

➤ [P.A. 24-127](#) **An Act Concerning the Criminal Justice Response to Victims of Sexual Abuse**

Section 1 Effective July 1, 2024

This is new legislation which creates a *Sexual Assault Criminal Justice Response, Enhancement and Model Policy Advisory Council*. The mission of the Council is to develop a model policy for response by the criminal justice system to sexual assaults of adults. The Chief Public Defender or his/her designee is on this Council. All appointments to the Council, which is within the Legislative Department, are for 4 years.

The Council is required to review law enforcement agency policies pertaining to response to sexual assault; Judicial Branch data related to sexual assaults; risk assessments utilized from arrest to disposition; data pertaining to arrests, penalties and monitoring of protective orders issued in such cases; offender programming which is offered.

The model policy is to be submitted to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) not later than July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter.

Section 2 Effective October 1, 2024

This new legislation requires police officers to “provide immediate assistance” to a victim at the scene or a sexual assault incident, including assisting the victim to obtain medical treatment if such is required. In addition, police officers are to inform the victim of services that are available and provide contact information; refer the person to the Judicial Branch’s office of Victim Services and certain information pertaining to services if a child is on the scene.

Section 3 Effective from passage

This section amends C.G.S. §10-10g, *Compilation and provision of information re services and resources for victims of domestic violence* and adds the Connecticut Alliance to End sexual Violence to the list of those required to gather and put together information pertaining to resources and services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

Section 4 Effective July 1, 2025

This section amends subsection (c) of C.G.S. §10-10g, *Compilation and provision of information re services and resources for victims of domestic violence*, to require the Department of Education to provide certain information to students, parents or

guardians who reside with a student, parent or guardian and advise a school employee that they do not feel safe at home, not only due to domestic violence, but also due to sexual assault.

See also: [P.A. 24-108](#) **An Act Concerning Court Operations and Administrative Proceedings**

WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

➤ [P.A. 24-106](#) **An Act Concerning Compensation for Persons Who Are Wrongfully Incarcerated**

Section 1 Effective from passage and applicable to claims pending before the Claims Commissioner on the effective date of this section or filed with the Claims Commissioner on or after the effective date of this section. (House passed in concurrence with Senate on May 8, 2024)

Subsection (a) of this section expands eligibility for a person to receive compensation for wrongful incarceration to include a person who has had his/her conviction vacated or reversed and the complaint dismissed, where the grounds are “consistent with innocence”. Consistent with innocence is defined as “includes but is not limited to, a situation in which a conviction was vacated or reversed and there is substantial evidence of innocence, whether such evidence was available at the time of investigation or trial or is newly discovered.”

Subsection (c) provides that the Claims Commissioner (CC) is required to determine whether the claimant meets the statutory eligibility requirements for compensation no later than 90 days after a hearing on a compensation claim with the CC.

Subsection (d) provides that if found eligible, the CC is currently authorized to order compensation unless the compensation award exceeds \$20,000. The act increases this threshold from in excess of \$20,000 to in excess of \$35,000. Any amount in excess of \$35,000 must be referred to General Assembly for review within a specific period of time.

Once referred, the General Assembly can not only deny or confirm the compensation but can remand the claim back to the CC for further proceedings. If no action is taken by the General Assembly, the CC’s determination is “deemed confirmed”.

When determining the compensation amount the CC is required to award such at 200% of the median family income for CT for each year the person was incarcerated. Current law only provides an award to be “at a minimum” or up to 200% of such.

The Act provides that the compensation amount awarded is to be offset by the amount of damages awarded to claimant from action by him/her against another state agency.

Subsection (e) still permits the CC to order compensation for employment training/counseling, tuition/fees for higher ed. However, the act eliminates the ability of the CC to order compensation for “any other services to facilitate re entry” and deletes this language.

Subsection (g) requires compensated persons to release claims against others. The act limits the release to only claims against the state.

Subsection (h) requires any damages awarded to be offset by the compensation award received.

Subsection (i) is new language and expands eligibility for compensation to a claimant who is deceased but would have been entitled to compensation if living. This section is applicable to any “claimant whose conviction was vacated or reversed posthumously” provided the claim was pending at the time of death.

Subsection (j) provides the time periods for submission of a claim and compensation award for the General Assembly.

Lastly, subsection (k) makes it clear that this Section 1 is not applicable to agreements or stipulations entered into per C.G.S. §3-125a, *Certain agreements or stipulations required to be approved by General Assembly* - Expenditure in excess of 2.5 million.

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