



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel Office of Chief Public Defender

Judiciary Committee - March 25, 2022 Raised S.B. 425 - An Act Concerning Sentence Modification

Mission Statement of the Division of Public Defender Services

Striving to ensure justice and a fair and unbiased system, the Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services zealously promotes and protects the rights, liberty and dignity of all clients entrusted to us. We are committed to holistic representation that recognizes clients as individuals, fosters trust and prevents unnecessary and wrongful convictions.

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of **Raised S.B. 425, An Act Concerning Sentence Modification**.

This proposal would clarify that the changes made to the statute on sentence modification last Session in section 25 of P.A. 21-102, as amended by section 63 of P.A. 21-104, were intended to be retroactive. The original proposal was submitted by the Connecticut Sentencing Commission and had broad support, including support from the Division of Criminal Justice. There is consensus among the stakeholders that the proposal was intended to apply retroactively, so that individuals who are currently incarcerated would have access to the process. While most jurisdictions are applying the process retroactively, motions to modify have been rejected outright in a few courts. This amendment is needed to ensure that last year's changes are applied consistently and in accordance with the intent of the Legislature.

The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this Committee to act favorably on this proposal.