



DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
State of Connecticut

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

Judiciary Committee – March 22, 2023

**Raised H.B. 6917 – An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Criminal Law
and Criminal Justice Statutes**

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) **supports** **Raised H. B. 6917, An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Statutes**. The bill is the result of numerous discussions between OCPD and the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) in regard to each other's legislative proposals.

Section 1 would amend the sentence modification statute. Current law provides no prohibition to a person who was granted full or partial relief in response to a motion for sentence modification. This section would require a person to wait 5 years before applying again for a sentence modification if a previous motion granted full relief. A person would be required to wait 3 years before applying again if the court granted the motion in part.

Section 2 is technical in nature and removes the reference to the former "Somers" Correctional Institution.

Section 3 permits the Commissioner of Correction to release a person to his/her residence with conditions, and possibly electronic monitoring, for persons who qualify after an ignition interlock device violation.

Section 4 would expand the good Samaritan provisions to protect and provide an incentive for individuals to render aid to an individual experiencing a drug overdose and save lives. In addition, it will combat statewide racial and jurisdictional disparity and inconsistent

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.

prosecutorial discretion leading to these disparities, when it comes to the arrest, prosecution, and dispositions of those charged in connection with a fatal drug overdose.

Sections 5 and 6 would provide discretion to the court in sentencing a person who has violated certain motor vehicle infractions.

OCPD takes no position on **sections 7 or 8**.

Sections 9 and 10 amend certain animal cruelty laws. As a member of the Sentencing Commission, OCPD participated in the discussions pertaining to these changes and is in agreement.

Section 11 provides for the state's attorney, a non-party to commutation proceedings, to obtain an applicant's submitted materials. Materials and documentation which are confidential, privileged or non-disclosable under state or federal law would not be included.

The Office of Chief Public Defender requests that the Committee act favorably on this bill. Thank you.