



## State of Connecticut

### DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

**Office of Chief Public Defender**  
55 Farmington Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut 06105  
(860) 509-6405 Telephone  
(860) 509-6495 Fax

**Deborah Del Prete Sullivan**  
Legal Counsel, Director  
[deborah.d.sullivan@pds.ct.gov](mailto:deborah.d.sullivan@pds.ct.gov)

**Testimony of John R. DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel,  
Office of Chief Public Defender**

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
Public Hearing - March 20, 2026**

### **S. B. 509 - AN ACT CONCERNING ADDRESS VERIFICATION REFORMS FOR REGISTRANTS**

**The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports S.B. 509 - An Act Concerning Address Verification Reforms for Registrants.** Persons on the sex offender registry are required to verify their addresses or be charged with a class D felony for failure to do so. However, substantial collateral consequences confront persons released into the community who have been convicted of a felony, especially if convicted of a sex offense. Some are homeless while others face difficult if not impossible obstacles in trying to obtain stable housing - especially individuals subject to the Sex Offender Registry. As a result, many are unable to timely receive the mailings and information required to comply with the registry law. There are also those that are unemployed and lack the financial resources to update the information in person. In such cases, this failure is not intentional but due to circumstances beyond the control of the person based on their indigency.

This bill will allow a much more reasonable time frame for persons to comply with the law instead of facing a D felony charge. It requests a change from 10 days to 30 days to return the verification form. It also provides two additional pathways for addressing these matters should there be an arrest of persons subject to this bill. First, it provides a reasonable process of returning such persons to compliance within the provisions of the bill not later than twenty business days following the arraignment of such person. If compliance is achieved within that timeframe, a court shall dismiss the charges if such person has no prior violations of this bill.

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**S.B. 475, An Act Concerning Address Verification Reforms for Registrants**

**Testimony of John R. DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel**

Second, this bill further requests an affirmative defense where (A) uncontrollable circumstances prevented the person from complying with the provisions of said subsection (a), (B) the person did not contribute to the creation of such circumstances in reckless disregard to the requirements pursuant to said subsection (a), and (C) such person was in compliance with the provisions of said subsection (a) as soon as such circumstances ceased to exist.

Lastly, it reduces the penalty for unintentional violations to a C Misdemeanor.

In conclusion, the Office of Chief Public Defender requests this Committee to vote favorably on this bill. Thank you.