

PUBLIC ACT 15-244, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE, DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX FAIRNESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FY16- FY17 funding for domestic violence services includes:

Continued Funding - Dept. of Social Services:

\$5,210,676 in each year for domestic violence shelters and services

1% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in FY17 - Office of Policy & Management

PUBLIC ACT 15-211, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES, AND CONCERNING THE PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATIONS AND DEPOSITIONS OF PERSONS LIVING OUT-OF-STATE

Establishes Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards and an Advisory Council (*Secs 19-22*)

- Establishes Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards per the standards submitted to the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee in September 2014. *[New section; Effective from passage]*
 - Requires that all offender treatment programs contracted with the Judicial Branch comply with the standards, with the exception of the pretrial Family Violence Education Program. *[\$46b-38c; Effective January 1, 2016]*
 - For all family violence cases initiated on or after July 1, 2016 which are not referred to the Judicial Branch family violence intervention unit and for which the prosecutor intends to issue a nolle prosequi due to the offender receiving counseling or treatment, the prosecutor, when entering the nolle prosequi, must state in open court that the counseling or treatment received by the offender complies with the standards. *[New section; Effective January 1, 2016]*
- Establishes the Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards Advisory Council to be chaired by Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division and CCADV. The advisory council will meet annually to review and, as necessary, update and amend the program standards. *[New section; Effective from passage]*

Enhances Confidentiality for Victims (*Secs 23-24*)

- Limits disclosure by a victim of family violence of her or his address or telephone number during a trial and requires that the name and address of a family violence victim remain confidential unless disclosure is ordered by the Superior Court *[\$54-86d and §54-86e; Effective July 1, 2015]*
-

SPECIAL ACT 15-10, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Establishes a Task Force to Study the Statewide Response to Children Exposed to Family Violence

- The task force must study those issues below and report findings and recommendations to the General Assembly not later than January 15, 2016 *[New section; Effective from passage]*
 - Examine existing policies and procedures used by the Department of Children & Families, Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, healthcare professionals, law enforcement, guardians ad litem, attorneys for minor children and the Judicial Branch
 - Develop a statewide model policy on responding to children exposed to family violence for use by the aforementioned professionals

**PUBLIC ACT 15-53, AN ACT CONCERNING MORTGAGE
CORRESPONDENT LENDERS, THE SMALL LOAN ACT,
VIRTUAL CURRENCIES AND SECURITY FREEZES ON
CONSUMER CREDIT REPORTS**

Eliminates Fees Related to Credit Report Freezes for Victims of Family Violence (Sec 9)

- Victims of family violence who are defined as such for exemptions and extensions related to temporary financial assistance (CGS §17b-112b) and who can provide such evidence as required for said exemptions and extensions shall not be charged a fee for a freeze of a credit report, removal of a freeze or temporary lifting of a freeze [§36a-701a; Effective from passage]

**PUBLIC ACT 15-85, AN ACT CONCERNING COURT
OPERATIONS AND THE CLAIM AGAINST
THE STATE OF LORI CALVERT**

Makes Changes to Acts That Violate Restraining Orders (Sec 17)

- Individuals who are subject to a restraining order will no longer automatically be in violation of a restraining order issued under §46b-15 solely for causing a document filed in a family relations matter, as defined in §46b-1, to be served on the protected party or parties in accordance with the law by mail or through a third party who is authorized by statute to serve process. [§53a-223b; Effective October 1, 2015]



PROGRESS ON OTHER PRIORITY ISSUES

Senate Bill 650/House Bill 6848

Both bills would have helped protect victims of domestic violence at the most dangerous time by requiring respondents of temporary restraining orders to surrender their firearms immediately or within 24 hours of notice.

SB 650 would have strengthened service of restraining orders by increasing the amount of time allowed to make service; providing for an automatic extension of a temporary restraining to allow additional time to make service; and, enhancing the state's ability to collect data about service of orders.

While an amendment to SB 650 with the firearm removal language was favorably voted on in the Senate (19-17), neither of the full bills were able to be called for a vote in either the Senate or House. However, we advanced the conversation about victim safety and the reality that victims face when attempting to end an abusive relationship and secure protections through the judicial system, leaving legislators well-positioned to continue the debate in a coming session.

Senate Bill 651

This bill would have required that certain family violence offenders be held without bail for 12 hours when certain risk factors were found to be present at the time of arrest or anytime preceding release. A compromise for an 8 hour hold was reached with both majority and minority leaders, and the bill unanimously passed the Senate. Unfortunately the measure got caught in a filibuster in the House and could not be called for a vote prior to the end of session.