

CCADV PRIORITY BILLS

COERCED DEBT

PUBLIC ACT 25-91, AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES...

Fixes definition of coerced debt. (Section 25)

- Fixes the definition of debt used in the statute clarifying that debt includes “unsecured credit card debt” incurred on or after January 1, 2025 that was not a) subject to a final judgment in a court action for dissolution of marriage or collection matter or b) incurred more than 10 years prior to the date of the request (meaning the debt cannot be more than 10 years old).

[§36a-649; effective upon passage]

SHELTER AND HOUSING LOCATION CONFIDENTIALITY

PUBLIC ACT 25-70, AN ACT PROTECTING THE LOCATION OF HOUSING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

Allows public agencies increased flexibility to keep housing locations confidential.

- Clarifies that public agencies* shall not disclose information indicating the location of shelter or transitional housing for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.
- Allows public agencies, for any portion of a meeting in which the location of such shelter or transitional housing will be discussed, to be held in executive session.

[§8-360; effective October 1, 2025]

*“Public agency” is defined as “Any executive, administrative or legislative office of the state or any political subdivision of the state and any state or town agency, any department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority or official of the state or of any city, town, borough, municipal corporation, school district, regional district or other district or other political subdivision of the state, including any committee of, or created by, any such office, subdivision, agency, department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority or official.

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

PUBLIC ACT 25-52, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Establishes the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

- The council is charged with advising and assisting the Department of Housing (DOH) commissioner to improve homelessness prevention and response efforts. This specifically includes examining:

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Interagency Council on Homelessness continued...

- Coordinating policies across state agencies, including those that improve health and human services for people experiencing homelessness, increase housing stability, and create more affordable housing;
- Improving state programs in the homelessness response system, including immediate assistance for people experiencing homelessness, support for emergency shelters, and investments in housing stability; and,
- Meeting the state's housing demands by maximizing funding for housing assistance, increasing the permanent supportive housing supply, improving rapid rehousing programs, and evaluating and finding solutions for expanded access to safe and affordable housing.
- Council membership includes a person who represents an organization advocating for domestic violence victims or prevention.

[New; Effective upon passage]

CCADV PRIORITY BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

SURVIVOR JUSTICE ACT

SENATE BILL 1502, AN ACT CONCERNING SENTENCE REDUCTION OR RELIEF FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING, OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Would have helped to ensure that that our criminal justice system can fully and fairly consider the traumatic experiences of survivors when determining sentencing by providing relief (either at the time of the initial sentence or during sentence modification) for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking who can demonstrate that their victimization was a contributing factor to the crime for which they were convicted.

Passed the Judiciary Committee 29-12; failed to be voted on by the Senate

OFFENDER INTERVENTION

SENATE BILL 1505, AN ACT ALLOWING COURT DISCRETION TO ADD A FAMILY VIOLENCE COMPONENT TO THE PRETRIAL SUPERVISED DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES

A recommendation of the Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council, this bill would have allowed the court discretion to add a domestic violence offender intervention program as an addition to mental health treatment for individuals charged with a family violence crime who are referred to the Supervised Diversionary Program (a program for individuals with certain mental health diagnoses or who are veterans).

Passed the Judiciary Committee 41-0 and the Appropriations Committee 42-8; failed to be voted on by the Senate

Other Bills of Interest

PUBLIC ACT 25-78, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF STATE MARSHALS...

Establishes guidelines for the electronic format of directing service of process to state marshals, applying some of the new guidelines to service of family violence restraining orders (Sections 13 & 14)

- Guidelines for electronic transmittal that apply to restraining orders include:
 - One electronic file per process, including all pages of the document (e.g., notice of hearing and ex parte order if applicable).
 - Specific to restraining orders, the electronic file must include the respondent profile (SMC-001) accessible electronically on the Judicial Branch website.
 - Applicant may not electronically transmit the same process to more than one state marshal for service.
- Process that is electronically transmitted to a state marshal is deemed to be an original document.
- Receipt of electronic process shall occur by reply of the state marshal to the applicant transmitting such process.
- State marshals receiving electronically transmitted process are not liable for damage, errors or omissions related to the electronic transmission, receipt, printing or filing of electronically transmitted process.
- Clarifies that state marshals may not charge a fee of any kind directly to restraining order applicants.

[New, §46b-15; Effective October 1, 2025]

PUBLIC ACT 25-91, AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS...

Makes changes to victim impact statements and victim notification (Section 21 & 22)

- Allows crime victims to make a statement to the prosecutor and the court on any plea agreement, not just in situations where the defendant pleads to a lesser offense.
- Allows Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services to make victim notification electronically when an inmate seeks release.

[§54-203, §54-230; Effective October 1, 2025]

PUBLIC ACT 25-153, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF THE CONNECTICUT UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW ACT

Adopts the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (Section 21 & 22)

- Creates a framework for parties to use a collaborative law process to achieve a non-adversarial resolution in certain family law matters (e.g., divorce, custody, parentage, etc.).
- States that a collaborative lawyer shall...
 - Make reasonable inquiry whether the prospective party has a history of a coercive or violent relationship with another prospective party.
 - Throughout the collaborative law process, reasonably and continuously assess whether the party the collaborative lawyer represents has a history of a coercive or violent relationship with another party.
- If a collaborative lawyer reasonably believes that a party has a history of a coercive or violent relationship with another party or prospective party, the lawyer may not begin or continue a collaborative law process unless: (1) The party or the prospective party requests beginning or continuing a process; and (2) the collaborative lawyer reasonably believes that the safety of the party or prospective party can be protected adequately during a process.

[New; Effective October 1, 2025]

PUBLIC ACT 25-77, AN ACT CONCERNING ENHANCED PROTECTIONS AVAILABLE UNDER THE STATE'S ANTI-SLAPP STATUTE

Broadens the applicability of the state's law allowing a party in a civil action to file a special motion to dismiss a complaint, counterclaim, or cross claim that is based on certain free speech

- Expands the definition of "right to free speech" to include "written communication made by an individual, without malice, concerning the alleged commission of a crime," which would capture written victim impact statements.
- Individuals filing a special motion to dismiss generally need to do so within 30 days after the return of the complaint or filing of the counterclaim or cross claim.

[§52-196a; Effective October 1, 2025 and applicable to any civil action filed on or after that date.]

PUBLIC ACT 25-113, AN ACT CONCERNING BROADBAND INTERNET, GAMING, SOCIAL MEDIA, ONLINE SERVICES AND CONSUMER CONTRACTS

Strengthens data privacy for survivors by creating a path for survivors to prevent their abuser from remotely obtaining vehicle data (e.g., GPS) (Section 19)

- Applies to adult survivors of certain crimes, including those listed under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) such as domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking.
- Allows a survivor to request that a manufacturer terminate or disable a "connected vehicle service" (programming that allows a person to remotely obtain data from, or send commands to a covered vehicle, including through a mobile device software application) if they can prove sole ownership or possession (e.g., exclusive use through a court order).
- Within two business days of receiving a request, the manufacturer must 1) terminate or disable the connected vehicle services account associated with the abuser, 2) terminate or disable the account, including by resetting or deleting data or the connection, and instructing the survivor how to re-establish the account/connection, or 3) if the vehicle is equipped with an in-vehicle interface, inform the survivor of how to use it to terminate or disable the connection.
- Requires manufacturers that make vehicles with "connected vehicle services" to post on their website a statement describing how a survivor may submit a connected vehicle service request to the provider.

[New; Effective July 1, 2026]

STATE BUDGET

FUNDING FOR SAFE CONNECT

The General Assembly made the following funding allocations in the FY26 - FY27 biennial budget:

- **Adds \$1,000,000 in state funding each year** through the Department of Social Services for the operation of Safe Connect, the statewide domestic violence information and resource line.

OTHER FUNDING

The General Assembly made the following allocations in the FY26 - FY27 biennial budget:

- **Maintains \$7,7650,381** to the Department of Social Services in each year to fund domestic violence shelters and services, which includes **\$190,440** to reflect an annualized COLA.
- **\$30 million** to the Office of Policy & Management in FY27 to fund a COLA for nonprofits.
- **Maintains \$1,250,000** to the Judicial Department or Counsel for Domestic Violence (legal representation for indigent victims when applying for a restraining order in certain courts).
- **Adds \$1,250,000 each** for **The CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence** and **CT Children's Alliance** through the Judicial Branch for victim services.
- Includes a **\$250 increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit** for eligible taxpayers who have at least 1 child (child is a child who qualifies as such for federal income tax purposes). (PA 25-168, Section 371)

[New; Effective July 1, 2025]

OUR MEMBERS



BRIDGEPORT



DANBURY



DAYVILLE/WILLIMANTIC



ENFIELD



GREENWICH



HARTFORD



NEW BRITAIN



NEW HAVEN/SHELTON



TORRINGTON



LAKEVILLE



MERIDEN



MIDDLETOWN



NEW LONDON



NORWALK/STAMFORD



WATERBURY