

CCADV PRIORITY BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS**SURVIVOR JUSTICE ACT****HOUSE BILL 5306, AN ACT CONCERNING SENTENCE REDUCTION OR RELIEF FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Would have brought a more trauma-informed approach to the sentencing of gender-based violence survivors by allowing judges to fully consider a survivor's experience when determining penalties for offenses the survivor can prove by clear and convincing evidence were tied to their victimization. Additionally, currently incarcerated survivors have the opportunity to seek sentence modification under defined criteria.

Passed the Judiciary Committee 24-11; not called for a vote in the House

SURVIVORS AND TENANT SCREENING**HOUSE BILL 5360, AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TENANT SCREENING**

Sought to mitigate the impact of low-credit scores for domestic violence survivors when applying for a lease by ensuring that those willing to disclose their status as a victim during the tenant screening and who were otherwise qualified to rent (e.g. adequate income) would not be inhibited solely by their credit score.

Passed the Housing Committee 14-4, not called for a vote in the House

EXPANDING THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM**SENATE BILL 485, AN ACT EXPANDING THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM TO SHIELD LAND RECORDS AND INCLUDE PRIVATE ENTITIES**

Would have expanded the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), which is administered by the Secretary of the State, to include real property records. Currently when participants in the ACP purchase real property, the deed and other identifying items are publicly available. This legislation would have allowed participants to request shielding of these real property documents to maintain their confidentiality and protect their safety.

Passed the GAE Committee 16-2, Passed the Senate, not called for a vote in the House

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OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST THAT PASSED

COURT-RELATED

Public Act No. 26-92, AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS

Expands coverage under victim compensation for "emotional harm." (Section 20)

- Redefines the term "emotional harm" used for the purposes of victim compensation eligibility to include "mental or emotional impairment that is "caused by the intentional or knowing actions of another person, and such actions would cause a reasonable person to fear for such person's safety." Previously, the definition required a threat of physical injury or death.

[§54-201; effective October 1, 2026]

Public Act No. 26-14, AN ACT CONCERNING DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY...

Establishes "domestic violence shelters," "family justice centers," and other areas as "protected areas" for purposes of taking a person into custody for a "civil offense." (Section 7)

- Prohibits peace officers from taking a person into custody in a defined "protected area" for a "civil offense" unless the officer (1) is acting in his or her official capacity and (2) has a judicial warrant for the person.
- "Civil offense" is defined as an offense for which there is a local, state, or federal civil proceeding for the charged person to offer a defense. It does not include an offense that state law identifies as an infraction, a motor vehicle violation, or an arrest that is allowed for an alleged criminal violation of a state law, contempt of court, judge-issued capias, warrant for a parole or probation violation, or an emergency commitment or an arrest related to a psychiatric disability.
- Several "protected areas" are defined, including "social services establishments" - a crisis center, domestic violence shelter, victims services center, child advocacy center, supervised visitation center, family justice center, facility that serves disabled persons, homeless shelter, drug or alcohol counseling and treatment facility, or food bank, pantry or other establishment distributing food or other essentials of life to people in need.

[New; effective October 1, 2026]

Public Act No. 26-32, AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONISSUANCE OF A STANDING CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER IN THE CASE OF A FAMILY VIOLENCE CRIME

Increases transparency when orders are not issued.

- When a Superior Court does not issue a standing criminal protective order against someone convicted, or found not guilty due to mental disease or defect, of a family violence crime, they will be required to state on the record its reasons for not doing so.

[§53a-40e; effective October 1, 2026]

Public Act No. 26-5, AN ACT CONCERNING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.

Makes it a class D felony to perform female genital mutilation (FGM) on a minor (person under the age of 18) and establishes a civil action to recover damages.

- An operation is not considered FGM if (1) necessary for the person's health, for a medical purpose, and performed by a licensed physician or another licensed health care professional acting within their profession's scope or (2) performed on someone in labor or immediately after childbirth, for a related medical purpose, and performed by a licensed physician or nurse-midwife, person in training to be a physician or nurse-midwife, or other licensed health care professional acting within their profession's scope.
- Establishes a civil action for the victim to recover compensatory damages, punitive damages or any other relief deemed appropriate by the court. Sets the statute of limitation for such action at thirty (30) years from the date such person turns 18 years old.

[New; effective October 1, 2026.]

Special Act No. 26-8, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PLAN FOR THE USE OF UNIFORM STATE-WIDE CASE IDENTIFICATION CODES IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES.

Seeks to enhance data collection relative to domestic violence arrests.

- Tasks the Chief Court Administrator, in consultation with the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), Criminal Justice Information System Governing Board, and Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response & Enhancement Advisory Council, with developing a plan for implementation and use of a uniform state-wide case identification code or codes for any domestic violence case included in any electronic data system of case files maintained by the Judicial Branch, DCJ or DESPP. The plan is due to the Judiciary Committee and Public Safety Committee on or before July 1, 2027.

[New; effective from passage.]

Public Act No. 26-55, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CIVIL ACTION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION FOR VICTIMS OF UNLAWFUL DISSEMINATION OF A SYNTHETICALLY CREATED INTIMATE IMAGE

Enhances protections for sexual assault and harassment through unlawful dissemination of images.

- Creates a civil cause of action for someone harmed by the unlawful dissemination of a synthetically created intimate image. (Section 1)
- Creates a process where the victim or Attorney General may notify the covered platform of the synthetically created intimate image that has been unlawfully disseminated and request the image be removed. (Section 2)

[New; effective October 1, 2026]

TECH AND PRIVACY-RELATED

Public Act No. 26-15, AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE SAFETY.

Implements various regulations and safeguards around artificial intelligence and technology.

- Prohibits any state agency, or any entity acting on its behalf, from directly or indirectly using or applying an AI technology to perform a function that (1) is related to the agency delivering a public assistance benefit to people in the state or (2) will have a material impact on the rights, civil liberties, safety, or welfare of people in the state, unless the use or application is in compliance with policies and standards established by OPM and DAS. (Section 38)
- Requires social media platforms to verify users ages before granting access to portions of a platform that contain a personalized algorithm. If a user is a minor, platforms must receive permission from the minor's parent or legal guardian. Covered operators must also give covered minors certain warnings pertaining to mental health when (1) the minor signs on each day and (2) after three hours of use, and each subsequent hour. (Section 39)

[Section 38 - New; effective October 1, 2026. Section 39 - New; effective January 1, 2028.]

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Act No. 26-112, AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE.

Seeks to identify resources for persons needing to place their companion animal in another person's care due to a domestic violence.

- Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services, to study how the need for placement of companion animals (e.g., placement of pets in temporary housing when entering shelter) affects domestic violence victims. The study will include 1) resources currently available for domestic violence victims to find temporary or permanent placements, 2) identify at least one contact person for victims in Connecticut who need to place their companion animal in another person's care due to a domestic violence situation, and 3) examine the feasibility of establishing a phone number or other electronic communications line accessible 24 hours a day for victims who need to place their companion animal in another person's care. A report and recommendations are due to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2027.

[New; effective October 1, 2026.]

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Public Act No. 26-98, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Strengthens anti-trafficking policies involving entities that provide lodging.

- Beginning January 1, 2027, requires owners or operators of hotels, motels, inns, or similar lodgings to annually register with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP).
- Allows DCP to fine lodging establishments that fail to maintain a record-keeping system for guest transactions, provide trafficking awareness training, or prohibit hourly room rates.

[New, §44-4, §44-5, §44-6; effective October 1, 2026.]

Public Act No. 26-70, AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE USE OF CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS HOTLINES AT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Makes several changes related to preventing and responding to sexual violence in correctional facilities.

- Establishes a Human Trafficking Prevention and Response Subcommittee consisting of members appointed by the Regionalized Human Trafficking Recovery Taskforce. (Section 8)
- Not later than 10/1/26, the Commissioner of the Department of Correction (DOC) shall issue a request for proposal for a confidential crisis hotline to report incidents of sexual violence, which will be made available to correction officers and persons who are incarcerated in a correctional institution. (Section 11)
- No later than 12/1/26 the DOC commissioner shall revise the Department's existing policy concerning the use of any confidential crisis hotline to report incidents of sexual violence and ensure that those who are incarcerated can access such hotline at no charge, in a location that enables such persons to access such hotline confidentially and without the supervision of, or permission from, any employee of DOC. (Section 12)

[Section 11 - New; effective October 1, 2026. Section 8 and Section 12 - New; effective July 1, 2026.]

STATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC SERVICES

- Maintains \$8,650,381 in the Department of Social Services to fund domestic violence shelters and services, including Safe Connect.
- Maintains \$1,250,000 in the Judicial Branch for "Counsel for Domestic Violence," which is funding that flows through legal aid to support survivors with restraining orders.

OTHER FUNDING & POLICIES OF INTEREST

- Maintains \$156,000,000 previously allocated to the Office of Policy & Management for private provider funding for an 8.2% COLA to all human services providers, including those funded by DSS.
- Includes \$14,100,000 to establish universal free breakfast in schools.
- Creation of a study to analyze the feasibility of establishing a Connecticut Option program, with the goal of reducing health insurance premiums.
- Extending certain landlord-tenant laws to third-party agents. Extends existing limitations on fees and payments that landlords may require from prospective or departing tenants to third parties acting on behalf of landlords or the state.

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