



DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES
State of Connecticut

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Testimony of the Office of Chief Public Defender
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Judiciary Committee – March 13, 2023

Raised S.B. 1194 – An Act Relieving Certain Registrants of the Requirements of the Sex Offense Registry and Clarifying Registration Requirements for Persons Transferred Into this State and Who Reside in Congregate Care Settings

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports **Raised S.B. 1194 - An Act Relieving Certain Registrants of the Requirements of the Sex Offense Registry and Clarifying Registration Requirements for Persons Transferred Into this State and Who Reside in Congregate Care Settings (LCO 5585)** and thanks the Committee for raising this important bill. The bill would eliminate the requirement for persons to register as a sex offender if they were released into the community after being convicted or found not guilty by reasons of mental disease or defense of a sexually violent offense on or after October 1, 1988, but prior to October 1, 1998. The sex offender registry was created after this group of individuals were convicted. At the time of their sentencing, they had no idea that a sex offender registry would be created so many years later, that they would be subject to the registry requirements, and the serious penalties for non-compliance. As a result, said persons have endured and continue to endure collateral consequences that have made their reentry and living in the communities difficult, if not impossible.

This office has supported this measure in previous discussions with other stakeholders and in its participation with the Connecticut Sentencing Commission. This office urges the Committee to vote favorably on this bill as proposed. Thank you.

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.