

## CCADV PRIORITY BILLS

### **PUBLIC ACT 23-106, AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTIONS AGAINST AND RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GPS MONITORING STATEWIDE EXPANSION**

**Expands GPS monitoring of certain domestic violence offenders to all courts by 10.1.25** (Section 1)

- Requires the Judicial Branch to provide electronic monitoring of certain domestic violence offenders within each judicial district by October 1, 2025.
- Under the program, the court *may* order that any person charged with the violation of a restraining order or a protective order, and who has been determined to be a high-risk offender by the family violence intervention unit, be subject to electronic monitoring if the court finds that such electronic monitoring is necessary to protect the victim.

[§46b-38c; effective July 1, 2023 with full statewide expansion to be completed by October 1, 2025]

#### **ALIMONY PROHIBITION**

**Prohibits award of alimony for domestic violence offenders convicted of certain crimes** (Section 2)

- Repealed and moved Public Act 23-136; please see description below.

#### **STUDY OF RESTRAINING ORDER REPRESENTATION GRANT PROGRAM**

**Requires study of possible statewide expansion of grant program for restraining order representation** (Section 3)

- Requires the CT Bar Foundation to study the feasibility of statewide expansion of the state's grant program to provide individuals who are indigent with free legal assistance when making an application for a restraining order.
- Report is due to the Judiciary Committee by December 1, 2023.

[§46b-15f; effective July 1, 2023]

### **PUBLIC ACT 23-136, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND DUTIES OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE AND ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

#### **ESTABLISHES THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE AND ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Amends, expands, and renames existing Family Violence Model Policy Council and outlines duties** (Section 1)

- Expands membership to create a broader group of stakeholders to assess the state's full criminal justice response to domestic violence.
- Establishes broad list of criminal justice-related issues on which the Council shall evaluate and advise.
- Requires annual report with recommendations be submitted to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committees.

[§46b-38j; effective July 1, 2023]

## ALIMONY PROHIBITION

### Prohibits award of alimony for domestic violence offenders convicted of certain crimes (Section 4)

- Prohibits abusers convicted of attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder, or certain other Class A or B felonies designated as family violence against their spouse from receiving alimony from their victims.
- Awards of temporary or permanent alimony made prior to such a conviction shall be terminated by the court upon motion filed by the victim/injured spouse that such spouse was subsequently convicted.

[New; Effective October 1, 2023]

## REPEALS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER PROGRAM STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Repeals Domestic Violence Offender Program Standards Advisory Council (Section 5)

- Repeals Council, the duties of which were incorporated into the new Council established in Section 1 of the bill.

[§46b-38]; Effective July 1, 2023]

## CCADV PRIORITY BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

### SENATE BILL 1086, AN ACT CONCERNING COERCED DEBT

Would have provided relief for victims from collection of coerced debts and reporting of such debts on their credit reports. Required documentation showing coerced debt that could include police reports, Federal Trade Commission report, court orders, or sworn written certification from a qualified third-party professional and be submitted under penalty of perjury. Creditors would remain able to pursue collection of the debt from the individual who is found to be the perpetrator of the coerced debt.

Passed Banking Comm. 11 - 1, Judiciary Comm. 32 - 5; passed Senate unanimously; failed to be voted on by House

### HOUSE BILL 6599, AN ACT CONCERNING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND OTHER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Would have required the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) to develop materials related to domestic violence to provide to DPH for distribution to obstetricians and birthing hospitals with the intention that it be provided to pregnant and postpartum patients. The original bill also would have allowed healthcare providers that screen for domestic violence to report to DPH so that it may publish a list on its website.

Passed Public Health Comm. & Appropriations Comm. unanimously; passed House unanimously; failed to be voted on by Senate

## Other Bills of Interest

### PUBLIC ACT 23-207, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND ADDRESSING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENTS IN THE STATE

#### Requires offer of "walk-through" inspection of dwelling upon entry into rental agreement (Section 4)

- On or after January 1, 2024, upon or after entry into a rental agreement, a landlord shall offer the tenant the opportunity to conduct a walk-through of the dwelling unit to note existing conditions, defects or damages.
- Upon the tenant vacating the unit, the landlord may not retain any part of the security deposit or seek payment for any condition, defect or damage that was noted in the preoccupancy walk-through.
- Not later than December 1, 2023, the Department of Housing shall prepare and make available on its website a standardized preoccupancy walk-through checklist.

[New; Effective October 1, 2023]

#### Prohibits rental application fees (Section 6)

- No landlord may demand from a prospective tenant any payment, fee or charge for the processing, review or acceptance of any rental application, or demand any other payment, fee or charge before or at the beginning of the tenancy, except a security deposit, advance payment for the first month's rent, a deposit for a key or any special equipment, or a fee for a tenant screening report. No landlord may charge a tenant a move-in or move-out fee.
- "Tenant screening report" is defined as a credit report, criminal background check, employment or rental history report, or any combination thereof.
- On or after October 1, 2023, a landlord may not charge more than \$50 plus an adjustment reflecting any increase in the consumer price index for a tenant screening report.

[New; Effective October 1, 2023]

## **PUBLIC ACT 23-207 CONTINUED...**

### **Limits late charges on overdue rental payments** (Section 7)

- Limits late charges on overdue rent to the lesser of (1) \$5 per day, up to a \$50 maximum, or (2) 5% of the overdue rent or 5% of the tenant's share of the rent in the case of rental agreements that are partially paid by a government or charitable entity.
- Prohibits rental agreements from requiring tenants to agree to late charges that exceed these limits.
- Prohibits landlords from assessing more than one late charge on an overdue rent payment, regardless of the length of time for which the rent is overdue.

[§47a-15a; Effective October 1, 2023]

### **Removal of certain eviction records from the Judicial Branch website** (Section 23)

- Requires the Judicial Department to remove from its website any records or identifying information related to a summary process action (i.e., eviction proceeding) that is withdrawn, dismissed or nonsuited, or decided in the defendant's (i.e., tenant's) favor. It must do this within 30 days after the action's disposition.

[New; Effective July 1, 2024]

### **Shortens deadline for return of security deposits** (Section 38)

- Reduces from 30 days to 21 days the deadline in which a landlord must return a tenant's security deposit, or the deposit balance if any, plus accrued interest.

[§47a-21; Effective October 1, 2023]

---

## **PUBLIC ACT 23-53, AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE**

### **Aligns certain requirements for obtaining a firearm permit or eligibility certificate with requirements for possessing a firearm and mirrors these in reasons for which someone may be in criminal possession of a firearm** (Sections 28-32)

- Expands the reasons for which the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall not issue a long gun eligibility certificate, a pistol permit, or a pistol eligibility certificate to include misdemeanor convictions for family violence crimes and those prohibited under federal law due to misdemeanor domestic violence convictions.
- Adds these same expansions to as reasons why an individual would be in criminal possession of a firearm or pistol.

[§29-37p, §29-38, §29-36f, §53a-217, §53a-217c; Effective October 1, 2023]

---

## **PUBLIC ACT 23-101, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS OF CHILDREN**

### **Extends eligibility for paid sick leave for service workers** (Section 8)

- Extends eligibility for paid sick leave to a service worker who is the parent or guardian of a child who is a victim of family violence or sexual assault, provided the worker is not the perpetrator or alleged perpetrator of the violence or assault.

[§31-57t; Effective October 1, 2023]

---

## **PUBLIC ACT 23-44, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO MARRY**

### **Makes 18 the minimum age to marry in Connecticut**

- Prohibits anyone under age 18, including emancipated minors, from being issued a marriage license under any circumstances by removing an exception in current law that generally allows a 16- or 17-year-old to get a marriage license if the probate court approves a petition filed by the minor's parent or guardian.

[§46b-20a, §45a-8a, 46b-150d; Effective July 1, 2023]

---

## **OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST THAT DID NOT PASS**

### **HOUSE BILL 6682, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SENTENCE FOR MURDER COMMITTED IN THE COURSE OF COMMISSION OF A FAMILY VIOLENCE CRIME**

Would have added domestic violence homicide to the list of crimes that are considered "murder with special circumstances," allowing for the possibility of a life sentence.

Not voted on by Judiciary Committee

## STATE BUDGET

### PUBLIC ACT 23-204, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET

#### STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Relevant budget allocations for Fiscal Years 2024 (7.1.23 - 6.30.24) and 2025 (7.1.24 - 6.30.25) include:

- **Maintains \$7,459,941 in state funding** through the Department of Social Services for domestic violence shelters, services, and child & family advocates. (Section 1)
- **\$13,175,000 in FY24 and \$20,000,000 in FY25 in one-time American Rescue Plan Act funding** through the Judicial Department to enhance funding for victim service providers. [Note: this funding is intended to cover losses in federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) for various victim services funded through the Judicial Department; approximately \$3.8 million in both years will be used for domestic violence services.] (Section 48)
- **Approximately 2.5% COLA** for nonprofit providers, including those providing services through the Department of Social Services. (Sections 1)

[New; Effective July 1, 2023]

#### CONTINUATION OF "COUNSEL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE" PROGRAM THROUGH JUDICIAL BRANCH

Appropriates \$1,250,000 in both FY24 and FY25 to the Judicial Department for Counsel for Domestic Violence (legal representation for indigent victims when applying for a restraining order in certain courts). (Section 1)

[New; Effective July 1, 2023]

#### EXPANDS TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Makes several changes to TFA including (1) extends the program's time limit from 21 to 36 months; (2) modifies the criteria for time limit extensions; (3) statutorily raises the program's asset limit from \$3,000 to \$6,000; and (4) disregards income for certain households. (Sections 264-270)

[§17b-112, §17b-112b, §17b-112e, §17b-112g; Effective April 1, 2024]

#### EXPANDED INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

Beginning July 1, 2024, Medicaid is expanded, within available appropriations, to children up to the age of 15 regardless of their immigration status. It maintains existing law that eligible children receiving such coverage shall continue receiving coverage until they are 19 years old. It also requires the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to study the costs and benefits of extending coverage to any ages 25 or younger. (Sections 283-285)

[§17b-261; Effective from passage]

## OUR MEMBERS



BRIDGEPORT



DANBURY



DAYVILLE/WILLIMANTIC



ENFIELD



GREENWICH



HARTFORD



LAKEVILLE



MERIDEN



MIDDLETOWN



NEW BRITAIN



NEW HAVEN/SHELTON



NEW LONDON



NORWALK/STAMFORD



TORRINGTON



WATERBURY