

## CCADV PRIORITY BILLS

### COERCED DEBT

#### **PUBLIC ACT 24-77, AN ACT CONCERNING COERCED DEBT**

**Defines coerced debt, makes those who cause another to incur coerced debt civilly liable, and establishes a claims process with banks/creditors.**

- Defines coerced debt as “any debt incurred in the name of a debtor who is a victim of domestic violence...when such debt was incurred in response to any duress, intimidation, threat of force, force or undue influence used to specifically coerce the debtor into incurring such debt.”
- Applies only to “unsecured credit card debt” incurred within the previous 10 years and does not include any debt that was subject to a final judgment in a court action for dissolution of marriage or collection matter.\*
- Makes any person who knowingly causes another individual to incur coerced debt civilly liable to said individual (“debtor”) for the debt and that person may also be civilly liable for attorneys’ fees and costs incurred by the debtor in establishing that a debt was coerced.
- Establishes a process through which a debtor may work directly with a creditor, bank, etc. (“claimant”), to show that a debt was coerced and request that the claimant cease collections of the debt.
- If the claimant determines that the documentation provided by the debtor establishes that a debt was coerced, it shall permanently cease collection of the debt from the debtor and direct any credit rating agencies to delete any negative information it has provided about that debt.
- If the claimant denies the debtor’s request based on the documentation provided not establishing a debt as coerced, the debtor may pursue existing civil litigation options against the claimant.

*[New; effective January 1, 2025]*

*\*Please note that a drafting error in the definition of “debt” will require a legislative fix during the 2025 session. Using this relief prior to that fix will not be practicable.*

### IPV INFORMATION FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM PERSONS

#### **PUBLIC ACT 24-151, AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE...**

**Requires distribution of information regarding intimate partner violence (IPV) by birthing hospitals and birth centers.**  
(Sections 141-142)

- Requires the Department of Public Health (DPH), in conjunction with CCADV, to develop educational materials regarding IPV for distribution a) in print to each birthing hospital and birth center in the state and b) electronically to obstetricians and other practitioners of obstetrics.
- Requires birthing hospitals and birth centers to provide the IPV educational materials developed by DPH to pregnant and postpartum persons.

*[§19a-59i, §19a-490ee; effective January 1, 2025]*

*For questions or additional information, please contact:*

Liza Andrews | Vice President of Government & Public Relations | [landrews@ctcadv.org](mailto:landrews@ctcadv.org) | 959.202.5003

## Other Bills of Interest

### COURT-RELATED

#### **PUBLIC ACT 24-129, AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN A PRETRIAL FAMILY VIOLENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Expands eligibility to participate in the Judicial Branch's pretrial Family Violence Education Program (FVEP)**

- Allows the court to refer someone charged with risk of injury, when good cause is shown, to FVEP.
- Previously individuals charged with a class C felony, which includes risk of injury, were ineligible for FVEP.

[§46b-38c; Effective October 1, 2024]

#### **PUBLIC ACT 24-108, AN ACT CONCERNING COURT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS**

**Requires police officers to give bail commissioners or intake and referral specialists employed by the Judicial Branch a crime victim's identifying information (Section 20)**

- Police officers shall provide a crime victim's name, address and phone, if available, for the purpose of carrying out such bail commissioner's or intake assessment and referral specialist's duties.

[§54-63c; Effective July 1, 2024]

**Expands access to Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services' Victim Compensation Program (Sections 22-25)**

- Removes the requirement that mental or emotional impairment requires treatment to be eligible for compensation.
- Extends the time limit to apply for victim compensation from two years to three years after the date of injury or death.
- Eliminates the 5-day time limit in which an incident or offense must be reported to the police.
- Permits victim compensation payments for pecuniary loss for attending Psychiatric Security Review Board hearings.
- Expands use of compensation in cases of emotional harm to include security measures.

[§54-201, §54-203, §54-210, §54-211; Effective July 1, 2024]

#### **PUBLIC ACT 24-137, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO...CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

**Allows courts to issue standing criminal protective orders when a person is found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect (Section 8)**

- Standing criminal protective orders may be issued in cases of family violence if the court determines that the offender's history and criminal conduct indicate that the order will best serve the victim and the public.
- Current state law only allows standing criminal protective orders to be issued following a criminal conviction.

[§53a-40e; Effective October 1, 2024]

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### HOUSING-RELATED

#### **PUBLIC ACT 24-143, AN ACT CONCERNING...NOTICES OF RENT INCREASES**

**Makes several changes related to housing development and rental housing. Relevant to survivors...**

- For any rental agreement entered into, renewed or extended on or after October 1, 2024, prohibits rent increases for residential dwelling units from being effective unless the landlord provides the tenant with written notice of the proposed increase at least 45 days before it takes effect. For leases with terms of one month or less, the notice must be equal to the full length of the lease. (Section 17)

[New; Effective October 1, 2024]

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### PRIVACY-RELATED

#### **PUBLIC ACT 24-56, AN ACT EXEMPTING CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

**Expands exemptions for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (Section 2)**

- Expands exemptions for disclosures of photographs, film, video or digital or other visual image to include those that depict victims of domestic or sexual abuse.
- Previously the exemption only applied to victims of homicide.

[§1-210; Effective July 1, 2024]

## EMPLOYMENT-RELATED

### **PUBLIC ACT 24-5, AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE STATUTES**

Makes various changes to the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) law. Relevant to survivors...

- Allows claimants to receive benefits concurrently with benefits from the state's Victim Compensation Program within certain limitations.
- Broadens the state's family violence "safe leave" law to also allow leave for sexual assault victims.

[§31-49g, §31-51ss; Effective October 1, 2024]

### **PUBLIC ACT 24-8, AN ACT EXPANDING PAID SICK DAYS IN THE STATE**

Expands the state's paid sick days law in numerous ways...

- Expands to all private sector employees and employers regardless of sector (e.g., no longer an exception for nonprofits), except seasonal employees working 120 days or fewer.
- Incrementally expands to all employers regardless of size as follows:  
1/1/25 - employers with 25+ employees; 1/1/26 - 11+ employees; 1/1/27 - 1+ employees
- Broadens the range of family members for whom an employee may use sick leave, including not just children and spouses, but also siblings, grandparents, parents, grandchildren, and an individual related "by blood or affinity".
- Expands reasons for use to include closure by order of a public official, due to a public health emergency of either (A) an employer's place of business, or (B) a family member's school or place of care.
- Prohibits employers from requiring employees to provide documentation to support their reasons for taking leave.

[§31-57r, §31-57s, §31-57t; Effective January 1, 2025]

## STATE BUDGET

### STATE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The General Assembly did not make adjustments to the state's FY24 - FY25 biennial budget meaning that the following FY25 allocations adopted during the previous legislative session remain in place:

- **Maintains \$7,459,941 in state funding** through the Department of Social Services for domestic violence shelters, services, and child & family advocates.
- **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).

### ARPA FUNDS

### **PUBLIC ACT 24-81, AN ACT CONCERNING ALLOCATIONS OF FEDERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS**

The General Assembly made the following allocations using one-time federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds:

- **\$20 million to 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 will be used for domestic violence services.] (Section 1, Line T551)
- **\$60,000 to the Department of Public Health** for printed materials on intimate partner violence. [Note: funding will support printing of materials for pregnant and postpartum persons required in Public Act 24-151; see pg 1.] (Section 1, Line T357)
- **\$50 million to the Office of Policy Management** to support a COLA for nonprofit providers. (Section 1, Line T440)

[New; Effective July 1, 2024]

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