

Office of The Victim Advocate

2025 Legislative Summary



Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 46a-13c, the State Victim Advocate

- Recommends changes in state policies related to crime victims' rights and services.
- Engages in legislative advocacy to support crime victims' rights.
- Proposes systemic reforms to enhance the overall support for crime victims.

156

During the 2025 Legislative session, the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) monitored and tracked the progress of 156 legislative proposals.

14

The OVA submitted written testimony concerning 14 proposals before the Aging, General Law, Government Oversight, Judiciary, and Public Health Committees.

Collaboration

The OVA collaborated with the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch and the Division of Criminal Justice on policies concerning crime victims' participation at violation of probation hearings.

Collaboration

The OVA collaborated with the Chief Court Administrator's Office of the Judicial Branch and the Division of Criminal Justice on policies to ensure restitution is enforced in family violence criminal cases.

LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY :

Public Act No. 25-70 (House Bill No. 6883), An Act Protecting the Location of Housing for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims (Effective October 1, 2025)

Expands the confidentiality protections to the location of shelters or transitional housing for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. The bill also allows portions of a public agency meeting to be held in executive session if such information could be revealed.

Public Act No. 25-77 (House Bill NO. 7134), An Act Concerning Enhanced Protections Available Under the State's Anti-SLAPP Statute (Effective October 1, 2025, and applicable to any civil action filed on or after said date)

Allows 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, petition, or association rights.

Public Act No. 25-29 (House Bill No. 7259), An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning Criminal Justice (Effective October 1, 2025)

In part, it establishes the following designations for sexual assault evidence collection kits: (1) anonymous; (2) identified, but not reporting to law enforcement; or (3) reported.

Public Act No. 25-91 (House Bill No. 7255), An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Operations and Procedures and the Duties of Judicial Branch Personnel (Effective October 1, 2025)

- In part, it allows the court to issue a criminal protective order after the arrest of a person for electronic stalking.
- For victims of domestic violence, it requires the debt be less than 10 years old to be eligible for waiver of coerced debt.
- Establishes a 13-member task force to review Habeas Corpus Proceedings in other states and the federal government and report its findings and recommendations by January 1, 2027.

Public Act No. 25-139 (House Bill No. 7236), An Act Concerning Human Trafficking and Sexual Assault Victims

- Makes sexual assault victims and human trafficking victims protected classes under Connecticut's antidiscrimination laws. (Effective October 1, 2025)
- Creates an affirmative defense for certain offenders charged with a misdemeanor who were under 18 at the time of the offense, and participation in the offense was the result of having been a human trafficking victim. (Effective October 1, 2025)
- Modifies the composition of the Trafficking in Persons Council (Effective upon passage)

Public Act No. 25-168 (House Bill No. 7287), An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget

- Establishes a new crime of unlawful dissemination of an intimate "synthetically created" image, similar to the existing crime of unlawful dissemination of an intimate image. (Effective October 1, 2025)
- Eliminates separate eligibility requirements for domestic violence victims to receive temporary financial assistance. (Effective July 1, 2025)
- Requires annual reports by municipalities that operate a juvenile review board or youth diversion program to the Children and Judiciary legislative committees and the Office of the Chief State's Attorney about diversions through juvenile review boards or similar youth diversion programs. (Section 266; Effective upon passage)