



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 619

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 506

Senate, April 14, 2026

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53a-115 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) A person is guilty of criminal mischief in the first degree when: (1)
4 With intent to cause damage to tangible property of another and having
5 no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so,
6 such person damages tangible property of another in an amount
7 exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars, or (2) with intent to cause
8 (A) (i) damage to tangible property of another and having no reasonable
9 ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, or (ii) an
10 interruption or impairment of service rendered to the public, and
11 [having] (B) with no reasonable ground to believe that such person has
12 a right to do so, such person damages or tampers with tangible property
13 of a utility or mode of public transportation, power or communication,
14 and thereby causes an interruption or impairment of service rendered

15 to the public, or (3) with intent to cause damage to any electronic
16 monitoring equipment owned or leased by the state or its agent and
17 required as a condition of probation or conditional discharge pursuant
18 to section 53a-30, as a condition of release pursuant to section 54-64a or
19 as a condition of community release pursuant to section 18-100c, and
20 having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to
21 do so, such person damages such electronic monitoring equipment and
22 thereby causes an interruption in its ability to function, or (4) with intent
23 to cause (A) damage to tangible property of another and having no
24 reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, or (B)
25 an interruption or impairment of service rendered to the public and
26 having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to
27 do so, such person damages or tampers with [(A)] (i) any tangible
28 property owned by the state, a municipality or a person for fire alarm or
29 police alarm purposes, [(B)] (ii) any telecommunication system operated
30 by the state police or a municipal police department, [(C)] (iii) any
31 emergency medical or fire service dispatching system, [(D)] (iv) any fire
32 suppression equipment owned by the state, a municipality, a person or
33 a fire district, or [(E)] (v) any fire hydrant or hydrant system owned by
34 the state or a municipality, a person, a fire district or a private water
35 company, or (5) with intent to cause damage to tangible property owned
36 by the state or a municipality that is located on public land and having
37 no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so,
38 such person damages such tangible property in an amount exceeding
39 one thousand five hundred dollars.

40 (b) Criminal mischief in the first degree is a class D felony.

41 Sec. 2. Section 53a-116 of the general statutes is repealed and the
42 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

43 (a) A person is guilty of criminal mischief in the second degree when:
44 (1) With intent to cause damage to tangible property of another and
45 having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to
46 do so, such person damages tangible property of another in an amount
47 exceeding two hundred fifty dollars; or (2) with intent to cause (A)

48 damage to tangible property of another and having no reasonable
 49 ground to believe that such person has a right to do so, or (B) an
 50 interruption or impairment of service rendered to the public and having
 51 no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so,
 52 such person damages or tampers with tangible property of a public
 53 utility or mode of public transportation, power or communication, and
 54 thereby causes a risk of interruption or impairment of service rendered
 55 to the public; or (3) with intent to cause damage to tangible property
 56 owned by the state or a municipality that is located on public land and
 57 having no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to
 58 do so, such person damages such tangible property in an amount
 59 exceeding two hundred fifty dollars.

60 (b) Criminal mischief in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	53a-115
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	53a-116

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Correction, Dept.; Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the offenses of criminal mischief in the first and second degrees, resulting in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines.¹ On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300² while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600³ each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

The Out Years

¹ Between FY 22 and FY 25, there were a total of 10,818 offenses recorded and \$3,000 in fines collected under CGS §§ 53a-115 and 53a-116.

² Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these expenses would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

³ Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of offenses and fines collected.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 506*****AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree criminal mischief to include intentionally damaging certain tangible property of others, including public services and systems (such as utilities, transportation, communications, emergency response, and other state and municipal systems). Under existing law and the bill, both crimes require the person to have acted with no reasonable grounds to believe he or she had the right to do so.

By law, 1st degree criminal mischief is a class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine up to \$5,000, or both and 2nd degree criminal mischief is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine up to \$2,000, or both.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

1ST DEGREE CRIMINAL MISCHIEF***Actual Service Interruption or Impairment***

The bill expands 1st degree criminal mischief to include when a person, intending to damage another's tangible property, damages or tampers with the tangible property of a utility or mode of public transportation, power, or communication. Existing law already includes instances where someone intentionally interrupts or impairs these services.

Specific Services or Systems Damage

Under existing law, a person commits 1st degree criminal mischief by intentionally interrupting or impairing public services by damaging or tampering with any of the following:

1. tangible property owned by the state, a municipality, or a person for fire alarm or police alarm purposes;
2. telecommunication systems operated by the State Police or a municipal police department;
3. emergency medical or fire service dispatching systems;
4. fire suppression equipment owned by the state, a municipality, a person, or a fire district; or
5. fire hydrants or hydrant systems owned by the state or a municipality, person, fire district, or private water company.

The bill expands this crime to instances where the person intended to damage another person's tangible property.

2nd Degree Criminal Mischief

Risk of Interruption or Impairment

Under existing law, a person commits 2nd degree criminal mischief when the person intentionally causes a risk of interruption or impairment of public service by damaging or tampering with tangible property of a public utility or mode of public transportation, power, or communication.

The bill expands this crime to include situations where the person intended to damage another person's tangible property and instead caused the risk to public property and services described above.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/30/2026)