



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 5306***

LCO No. 1697



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SENTENCE REDUCTION OR RELIEF FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 53a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

3 [For] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any  
4 felony committed on or after July 1, 1981, the sentence of imprisonment  
5 shall be a definite sentence and, unless the section of the general statutes  
6 that defines or provides the penalty for the crime specifically provides  
7 otherwise, the term shall be fixed by the court as follows:

8 (1) (A) For a capital felony committed prior to April 25, 2012, under  
9 the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, a term  
10 of life imprisonment without the possibility of release unless a sentence  
11 of death is imposed in accordance with section 53a-46a, or (B) for the  
12 class A felony of murder with special circumstances committed on or  
13 after April 25, 2012, under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect on  
14 or after April 25, 2012, a term of life imprisonment without the

15 possibility of release;

16 (2) For the class A felony of murder, a term not less than twenty-five  
17 years nor more than life;

18 (3) For the class A felony of aggravated sexual assault of a minor  
19 under section 53a-70c, a term not less than twenty-five years or more  
20 than fifty years;

21 (4) For a class A felony other than an offense specified in subdivision  
22 (2) or (3) of this section, a term not less than ten years nor more than  
23 twenty-five years;

24 (5) For the class B felony of manslaughter in the first degree with a  
25 firearm under section 53a-55a, a term not less than five years nor more  
26 than forty years;

27 (6) For a class B felony other than manslaughter in the first degree  
28 with a firearm under section 53a-55a, a term not less than one year nor  
29 more than twenty years;

30 (7) For a class C felony, a term not less than one year nor more than  
31 ten years;

32 (8) For a class D felony, a term not more than five years;

33 (9) For a class E felony, a term not more than three years; and

34 (10) For an unclassified felony, a term in accordance with the sentence  
35 specified in the section of the general statutes that defines or provides  
36 the penalty for the crime.

37 (b) (1) Prior to a court imposing a sentence of imprisonment for a  
38 felony offense, a defendant may move for application of this subsection  
39 to such defendant's sentence. Upon such motion and a determination by  
40 the court that (A) the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
41 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) domestic

42 violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a  
43 contributing factor in the commission of the offense, the court shall  
44 impose a sentence in accordance with this subsection.

45 (2) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "domestic violence" has the  
46 same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 46b-1; (B) "sexual  
47 assault" means any act that constitutes a violation of section 53a-70b of  
48 the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or  
49 section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a; (C)  
50 "stalking" means any act that constitutes a violation of section 53a-181c,  
51 53a-181d, 53a-181e or 53a-181f; (D) "trafficking in persons" means  
52 trafficking in persons under section 53a-192a or a criminal violation of  
53 18 USC Chapter 77, as amended from time to time; and (E) "contributing  
54 factor" means a factor that influences an offense but is not necessarily  
55 the sole, primary, substantial or major factor leading to the offense.

56 (3) Such defendant shall provide the court at least two pieces of  
57 documented proof corroborating that the defendant is a survivor of  
58 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons that  
59 may include, but need not be limited to, a signed affidavit attesting to  
60 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; a court  
61 record; presentence report; social services record; hospital record; law  
62 enforcement record; restraining order or protective order pursuant to  
63 section 46b-15, 46b-16a or 46b-38c, subsection (f) of section 53a-28 or  
64 section 53a-40e or 54-1k, or a foreign order of protection, as defined in  
65 section 46b-15a; sworn statement from a person with direct or indirect  
66 knowledge of the domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
67 trafficking in persons; documentation prepared at or near the time of the  
68 commission or prosecution of the present offense tending to support the  
69 claims of the defendant; records provided by a licensed medical care  
70 provider or mental health care provider; or sworn statements from a  
71 member of the clergy, an attorney or a social worker, or a domestic  
72 violence counselor or sexual assault counselor, each as defined in  
73 section 52-146k, or other advocate acting on behalf of a survivor of  
74 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons.

75       (4) At any time prior to sentencing, the court shall consider testimony  
76 from witnesses offered by the prosecution or defense, consider oral and  
77 written arguments and consider any other evidence relevant to the  
78 court's determination of whether domestic violence, sexual assault,  
79 stalking or trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the  
80 commission of the defendant's offense. Reliable hearsay evidence shall  
81 be admissible at the hearing for purposes of this subsection.

82       (5) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes providing  
83 a term of imprisonment for a felony offense, including a mandatory  
84 minimum sentence, if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence  
85 that domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons  
86 was a contributing factor in the commission of the offense, the court  
87 shall depart from the applicable sentence under subsection (a) of this  
88 section or the sentence provided under the section of the general statutes  
89 for the applicable offense, to the ranges provided as follows: (A) A term  
90 of life imprisonment without the possibility of release shall be reduced  
91 to a term of thirty years imprisonment or less; (B) a term of fifty years of  
92 imprisonment or more, but not life imprisonment without the  
93 possibility of release, shall be reduced to a term of twenty-five years  
94 imprisonment or less; (C) a term of forty years of imprisonment or more,  
95 up to, but not including, fifty years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a  
96 term of twenty years imprisonment or less; (D) a term of thirty years of  
97 imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a term of forty years  
98 imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of fifteen years imprisonment  
99 or less; (E) a term of twenty-five years of imprisonment or more, up to,  
100 but not including, a term of thirty years imprisonment, shall be reduced  
101 to a term of twelve and one-half years imprisonment or less; (F) a term  
102 of twenty years of imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a  
103 term of twenty-five years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of  
104 ten years imprisonment or less; (G) a term of ten years of imprisonment  
105 or more, up to, but not including, a term of twenty years imprisonment,  
106 shall be reduced to a term of five years imprisonment or less; (H) a term  
107 of five years of imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a term

108 of ten years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of five years  
109 imprisonment or less; and (I) a term of three years of imprisonment or  
110 more, up to, but not including, a term of five years imprisonment, shall  
111 be reduced to a term of eighteen months imprisonment or less. The court  
112 shall state on the record that sentencing was determined in accordance  
113 with this subsection.

114 (6) If the court finds that such defendant has not met the requirements  
115 to apply for relief as provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
116 the court shall deny such defendant's motion without prejudice.

117 (7) Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a defendant from  
118 seeking or obtaining relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as  
119 amended by this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a,  
120 as amended by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence  
121 reduction relief.

122 Sec. 2. Section 53a-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
123 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

124 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, at any time  
125 during an executed period of incarceration, the sentencing court or  
126 judge may, after hearing and for good cause shown, reduce the sentence,  
127 order the defendant discharged, or order the defendant discharged on  
128 probation or conditional discharge for a period not to exceed that to  
129 which the defendant could have been originally sentenced.

130 (b) [On] Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, on and  
131 after October 1, 2021, at any time during the period of a sentence in  
132 which a defendant has been sentenced prior to, on or after October 1,  
133 2021, to an executed period of incarceration of more than seven years as  
134 a result of a plea agreement, including an agreement in which there is  
135 an agreed upon range of sentence, upon agreement of the defendant and  
136 the state's attorney to seek review of the sentence, the sentencing court  
137 or judge may, after hearing and for good cause shown, reduce the  
138 sentence, order the defendant discharged, or order the defendant

139 discharged on probation or conditional discharge for a period not to  
140 exceed that to which the defendant could have been originally  
141 sentenced.

142 (c) If, after a hearing pursuant to this section, the sentencing court or  
143 judge denies or grants in full a motion to reduce a defendant's sentence  
144 or discharge the defendant, the defendant may not file a subsequent  
145 motion for relief under this section until five years have elapsed from  
146 the date of the most recent decision denying such defendant relief  
147 pursuant to this section. If, after a hearing pursuant to this section, the  
148 sentencing court or judge grants in part a motion to reduce a defendant's  
149 sentence, the defendant may not file a subsequent motion for relief  
150 under this section until three years from the date of the most recent  
151 decision granting such defendant relief pursuant to this section.

152 (d) [The] Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, the  
153 provisions of this section shall not apply to any portion of a sentence  
154 imposed that is a mandatory minimum sentence for an offense which  
155 may not be suspended or reduced by the court.

156 (e) At the time the defendant files a motion with the court, the  
157 defendant shall provide the state with a copy of the motion and any  
158 materials and documentation filed with the court in support of such  
159 motion.

160 (f) At a hearing held by the sentencing court or judge under this  
161 section, such court or judge shall permit any victim of the crime to  
162 appear before the court or judge for the purpose of making a statement  
163 for the record concerning whether or not the sentence of the defendant  
164 should be reduced, the defendant should be discharged or the  
165 defendant should be discharged on probation or conditional discharge  
166 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section. In lieu of such  
167 appearance, the victim may submit a written statement to the court or  
168 judge and the court or judge shall make such statement a part of the  
169 record at the hearing. For the purposes of this subsection, "victim"

170 means the victim, the legal representative of the victim or a member of  
171 the deceased victim's immediate family.

172 (g) (1) Any defendant filing a motion for sentence modification  
173 pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall have the  
174 opportunity to present evidence demonstrating that (A) the defendant  
175 is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
176 in persons, and (B) domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
177 trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of the  
178 offense.

179 (2) When possible, any motion for sentence modification under this  
180 subsection shall be heard by the original sentencing judge. A defendant  
181 is not eligible to make a motion under this subsection if such defendant  
182 was sentenced in accordance with subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
183 amended by this act.

184 (3) For purposes of this subsection "domestic violence", "sexual  
185 assault", "stalking", "trafficking in persons" and "contributing factor"  
186 have the same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a,  
187 as amended by this act.

188 (4) Any defendant seeking consideration pursuant to this subsection  
189 shall provide the court at least two pieces of documented proof  
190 corroborating that the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
191 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons that may include, but  
192 need not be limited to, a signed affidavit attesting to subparagraphs (A)  
193 and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; a court record; presentence  
194 report; social services record; hospital record; law enforcement record;  
195 restraining order or protective order pursuant to section 46b-15, 46b-16a  
196 or 46b-38c, subsection (f) of section 53a-28 or section 53a-40e or 54-1k, or  
197 a foreign order of protection, as defined in section 46b-15a; sworn  
198 statement from a person with direct or indirect knowledge of the  
199 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons;  
200 documentation prepared at or near the time of the commission or

201 prosecution of the offense tending to support the claims of the  
202 defendant; records provided by a licensed medical care provider or  
203 mental health care provider; or sworn statements from a member of the  
204 clergy, an attorney or a social worker, or a domestic violence counselor  
205 or sexual assault counselor, each as defined in section 52-146k, or other  
206 advocate acting on behalf of a survivor of domestic violence, sexual  
207 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons. Any defendant who complies  
208 with this subdivision shall be granted a hearing pursuant to this section.

209 (5) At a hearing held under this section, the court shall take testimony  
210 from witnesses offered by the state or defense, consider oral and written  
211 arguments and consider any other evidence relevant to the court's  
212 determination of whether domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
213 trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of the  
214 defendant's offense. Reliable hearsay shall be admissible for purposes of  
215 this subsection. The court may determine that violence or abuse the  
216 defendant suffered due to being subjected to domestic violence, sexual  
217 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was related to and was a  
218 contributing factor to the offense regardless of whether the defendant  
219 had previously raised evidence of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
220 stalking or trafficking in persons during the defendant's trial, plea  
221 negotiations or sentencing hearing.

222 (6) Regardless of whether the defendant is subject to a mandatory  
223 minimum sentence, if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence  
224 that (A) the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
225 stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) domestic violence, sexual  
226 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the  
227 commission of the offense, the court shall reduce the sentence in  
228 accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
229 amended by this act.

230 (7) The court may waive the timeline under subsection (c) of this  
231 section if the defendant presents new evidence or shows good cause for  
232 delay in presenting evidence.

233 (8) If the court finds that such defendant has not met the requirements  
234 to apply for relief as provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
235 the court shall notify the defendant and deny such defendant's request  
236 without prejudice.

237 (9) Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a defendant from  
238 seeking or obtaining relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as  
239 amended by this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a,  
240 as amended by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence  
241 reduction relief.

242 Sec. 3. Section 54-125a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
243 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

244 (a) A person convicted of one or more crimes who is incarcerated on  
245 or after October 1, 1990, who received a definite sentence or total  
246 effective sentence of more than two years, and who has been confined  
247 under such sentence or sentences for not less than one-half of the total  
248 effective sentence less any risk reduction credit earned under the  
249 provisions of section 18-98e or one-half of the most recent sentence  
250 imposed by the court less any risk reduction credit earned under the  
251 provisions of section 18-98e, whichever is greater, may be allowed to go  
252 at large on parole (1) in accordance with the provisions of section 54-  
253 125i, or (2) in the discretion of a panel of the Board of Pardons and  
254 Paroles, if (A) it appears from all available information, including any  
255 reports from the Commissioner of Correction that the panel may  
256 require, that there is a reasonable probability that such inmate will live  
257 and remain at liberty without violating the law, and (B) such release is  
258 not incompatible with the welfare of society. At the discretion of the  
259 panel, and under the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the  
260 panel including requiring the parolee to submit personal reports, the  
261 parolee shall be allowed to return to the parolee's home or to reside in a  
262 residential community center, or to go elsewhere. The parolee shall,  
263 while on parole, remain under the jurisdiction of the board until the  
264 expiration of the maximum term or terms for which the parolee was

265 sentenced less any risk reduction credit earned under the provisions of  
266 section 18-98e. Any parolee released on the condition that the parolee  
267 reside in a residential community center may be required to contribute  
268 to the cost incidental to such residence. Each order of parole shall fix the  
269 limits of the parolee's residence, which may be changed in the discretion  
270 of the board and the Commissioner of Correction. Within three weeks  
271 after the commitment of each person sentenced to more than two years,  
272 the state's attorney for the judicial district shall send to the Board of  
273 Pardons and Paroles the record, if any, of such person.

274 (b) (1) No person convicted of any of the following offenses, which  
275 was committed on or after July 1, 1981, shall be eligible for parole under  
276 subsection (a) of this section: (A) Capital felony, as provided under the  
277 provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, (B) murder  
278 with special circumstances, as provided under the provisions of section  
279 53a-54b in effect on or after April 25, 2012, (C) felony murder, as  
280 provided in section 53a-54c, (D) arson murder, as provided in section  
281 53a-54d, (E) murder, as provided in section 53a-54a, or (F) aggravated  
282 sexual assault in the first degree, as provided in section 53a-70a. (2) A  
283 person convicted of (A) a violation of section 53a-100aa or 53a-102, or  
284 (B) an offense, other than an offense specified in subdivision (1) of this  
285 subsection, where the underlying facts and circumstances of the offense  
286 involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force  
287 against another person shall be ineligible for parole under subsection (a)  
288 of this section until such person has served not less than eighty-five per  
289 cent of the definite sentence imposed.

290 (c) The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall, not later than July 1, 1996,  
291 adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to ensure that a person  
292 convicted of an offense described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of  
293 this section is not released on parole until such person has served eighty-  
294 five per cent of the definite sentence imposed by the court. Such  
295 regulations shall include guidelines and procedures for classifying a  
296 person as a violent offender that are not limited to a consideration of the  
297 elements of the offense or offenses for which such person was convicted.

298 (d) The Board of Pardons and Paroles may hold a hearing to  
299 determine the suitability for parole release of any person whose  
300 eligibility for parole release is not subject to the provisions of subsection  
301 (b) of this section upon completion by such person of seventy-five per  
302 cent of such person's definite or total effective sentence less any risk  
303 reduction credit earned under the provisions of section 18-98e. An  
304 employee of the board or, if deemed necessary by the chairperson, a  
305 panel of the board shall assess the suitability for parole release of such  
306 person based on the following standards: (1) Whether there is  
307 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
308 without violating the law, and (2) whether the benefits to such person  
309 and society that would result from such person's release to community  
310 supervision substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and  
311 society that would result from such person's continued incarceration. If  
312 a hearing is held, and if the board determines that continued  
313 confinement is necessary, the board shall articulate for the record the  
314 specific reasons why such person and the public would not benefit from  
315 such person serving a period of parole supervision while transitioning  
316 from incarceration to the community. If a hearing is not held, the board  
317 shall document the specific reasons for not holding a hearing and  
318 provide such reasons to such person. No person shall be released on  
319 parole without receiving a hearing. The decision of the board under this  
320 subsection shall not be subject to appeal.

321 (e) The Board of Pardons and Paroles may hold a hearing to  
322 determine the suitability for parole release of any person whose  
323 eligibility for parole release is subject to the provisions of subdivision  
324 (2) of subsection (b) of this section upon completion by such person of  
325 eighty-five per cent of such person's definite or total effective sentence.  
326 An employee of the board or, if deemed necessary by the chairperson, a  
327 panel of the board shall assess the suitability for parole release of such  
328 person based on the following standards: (1) Whether there is a  
329 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
330 without violating the law, and (2) whether the benefits to such person

331 and society that would result from such person's release to community  
332 supervision substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and  
333 society that would result from such person's continued incarceration. If  
334 a hearing is held, and if the board determines that continued  
335 confinement is necessary, the board shall articulate for the record the  
336 specific reasons why such person and the public would not benefit from  
337 such person serving a period of parole supervision while transitioning  
338 from incarceration to the community. No hearing pursuant to the  
339 provisions of this subsection may proceed unless the parole release  
340 panel is in possession of the complete file for such applicant, including  
341 any documentation from the Department of Correction, the trial  
342 transcript, the sentencing record and any file of any previous parole  
343 hearing. Each member of the panel shall certify that all such  
344 documentation has been reviewed in preparation for such hearing. If a  
345 hearing is not held, the board shall document the specific reasons for not  
346 holding a hearing and provide such reasons to such person. No person  
347 shall be released on parole without receiving a hearing. The decision of  
348 the board under this subsection shall not be subject to appeal.

349 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (e),  
350 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
351 committed while such person was under eighteen years of age, who is  
352 incarcerated on or after October 1, 2015, and who received a definite  
353 sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten years for such crime  
354 or crimes prior to, on or after October 1, 2015, may be allowed to go at  
355 large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the Board of Pardons  
356 and Paroles for the institution in which such person is confined,  
357 provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty years or less,  
358 such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty per cent of the  
359 sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such person is  
360 serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person shall be eligible  
361 for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this subsection shall  
362 limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the provisions of  
363 subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section if such person would be

364 eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any of such provisions.

365 (2) The board shall apply the parole eligibility rules of this subsection  
366 only with respect to the sentence for a crime or crimes committed while  
367 a person was under eighteen years of age. Any portion of a sentence that  
368 is based on a crime or crimes committed while a person was eighteen  
369 years of age or older shall be subject to the applicable parole eligibility,  
370 suitability and release rules set forth in subsections (a) to (e), inclusive,  
371 of this section.

372 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
373 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
374 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
375 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
376 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
377 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
378 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such  
379 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
380 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
381 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
382 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
383 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement  
384 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
385 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of  
386 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a. The  
387 board may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
388 relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of Correction or  
389 other persons, as the board may require. The board shall use validated  
390 risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-based  
391 structured decision making and release criteria established pursuant to  
392 subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a determination pursuant to  
393 this subsection.

394 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at large  
395 on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was based on a

396 crime or crimes committed while such person was under eighteen years  
397 of age if the board finds that such parole release would be consistent  
398 with the factors set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of  
399 subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears, from all available  
400 information, including, but not limited to, any reports from the  
401 Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a reasonable probability  
402 that such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the  
403 law, (B) the benefits to such person and society that would result from  
404 such person's release to community supervision substantially outweigh  
405 the benefits to such person and society that would result from such  
406 person's continued incarceration, and (C) such person has demonstrated  
407 substantial rehabilitation since the date such crime or crimes were  
408 committed considering such person's character, background and  
409 history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but not limited to, such  
410 person's correctional record, the age and circumstances of such person  
411 as of the date of the commission of the crime or crimes, whether such  
412 person has demonstrated remorse and increased maturity since the date  
413 of the commission of the crime or crimes, such person's contributions to  
414 the welfare of other persons through service, such person's efforts to  
415 overcome substance abuse, addiction, trauma, lack of education or  
416 obstacles that such person may have faced as a child or youth in the  
417 adult correctional system, the opportunities for rehabilitation in the  
418 adult correctional system, whether the person has also applied for or  
419 received a sentence modification and the overall degree of such person's  
420 rehabilitation considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or  
421 crimes.

422 (5) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
423 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that  
424 continued confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such  
425 person's suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date to be  
426 determined at the discretion of the board, but not earlier than two years  
427 after the date of its decision.

428 (6) The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be subject

429 to appeal.

430 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f),  
431 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
432 committed while such person was under twenty-one years of age, who  
433 was sentenced on or before October 1, 2005, and who received a definite  
434 sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten years' incarceration  
435 for such crime or crimes committed on or before October 1, 2005, may  
436 be allowed to go at large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the  
437 Board of Pardons and Paroles for the institution in which such person is  
438 confined, provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty years  
439 or less, such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty per  
440 cent of the sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such  
441 person is serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person shall  
442 be eligible for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this  
443 subsection shall limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the  
444 provisions of subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of this section if such  
445 person would be eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any  
446 of such provisions.

447 (2) The board shall apply the parole eligibility rules of this subsection  
448 only with respect to the sentence for a crime or crimes committed while  
449 a person was under twenty-one years of age. Any portion of a sentence  
450 that is based on a crime or crimes committed while a person was twenty-  
451 one years of age or older shall be subject to the applicable parole  
452 eligibility, suitability and release rules set forth in subsections (a) to (e),  
453 inclusive, of this section.

454 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
455 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
456 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
457 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
458 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
459 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
460 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such

461 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
462 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
463 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
464 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
465 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement  
466 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
467 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of  
468 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a. The  
469 board may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
470 relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of Correction or  
471 other persons, as the board may require. The board shall use validated  
472 risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-based  
473 structured decision making and release criteria established pursuant to  
474 subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a determination pursuant to  
475 this subsection.

476 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at large  
477 on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was based on a  
478 crime or crimes committed while such person was under twenty-one  
479 years of age, if the board finds that such parole release would be  
480 consistent with the factors set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive,  
481 of subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears, from all available  
482 information, including, but not limited to, any reports from the  
483 Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a reasonable probability  
484 that such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the  
485 law, (B) the benefits to such person and society that would result from  
486 such person's release to community supervision substantially outweigh  
487 the benefits to such person and society that would result from such  
488 person's continued incarceration, and (C) such person has demonstrated  
489 substantial rehabilitation since the date such crime or crimes were  
490 committed considering such person's character, background and  
491 history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but not limited to, such  
492 person's correctional record, the age and circumstances of such person  
493 as of the date of the commission of the crime or crimes, whether such

494 person has demonstrated remorse and increased maturity since the date  
495 of the commission of the crime or crimes, such person's contributions to  
496 the welfare of other persons through service, such person's efforts to  
497 overcome substance abuse, addiction, trauma, lack of education or  
498 obstacles that such person may have faced as a person who was under  
499 twenty-one years of age in the adult correctional system, the  
500 opportunities for rehabilitation in the adult correctional system,  
501 whether the person has also applied for or received a sentence  
502 modification and the overall degree of such person's rehabilitation  
503 considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or crimes.

504 (5) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
505 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that  
506 continued confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such  
507 person's suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date to be  
508 determined at the discretion of the board, but not earlier than two years  
509 after the date of its decision.

510 (6) The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be subject  
511 to appeal.

512 (h) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "domestic violence", "sexual  
513 assault", "stalking", "trafficking in persons" and "contributing factor"  
514 have the same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a,  
515 as amended by this act.

516 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (g), inclusive,  
517 of this section, any person who is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual  
518 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons and for whom domestic  
519 violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a  
520 contributing factor in the commission of such person's offense or  
521 conviction, and who received a definite sentence or total effective  
522 sentence of more than ten years, may submit an application for a parole  
523 suitability hearing before a panel of the Board of Pardons and Paroles  
524 for the institution in which such person is confined, provided (A) if such

525 person is serving a sentence of fifty years or less, such person shall be  
526 eligible for parole after serving sixty per cent of the sentence or twelve  
527 years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such person is serving a sentence of  
528 more than fifty years, such person shall be eligible for parole after  
529 -serving thirty years. A person shall have the opportunity to apply for  
530 parole under this subsection regardless of whether or not evidence  
531 regarding such person's survival of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
532 stalking or trafficking in persons had been presented or disclosed at  
533 such person's trial, sentencing hearing or any previous application for  
534 parole. Nothing in this subsection shall limit a person's eligibility for  
535 parole release under the provisions of subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of  
536 this section if such person would be eligible for parole release at an  
537 earlier date under any such provision.

538 (3) At the time of application for a parole suitability hearing under  
539 this subsection, the person shall submit at least two pieces of  
540 documented proof, which may include, but not be limited to,  
541 documentation described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section  
542 53a-35a, as amended by this act, corroborating the person's claim that  
543 such person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking  
544 or trafficking in persons.

545 (4) If the board finds that the person's documented proof complies  
546 with the requirements of subdivision (3) of this subsection, the board  
547 shall grant the person a parole suitability hearing not later than one  
548 hundred twenty days after such finding to aid the board in determining  
549 whether the person should be released on parole.

550 (5) At the parole suitability hearing, the board shall allow the person  
551 to present additional evidence to demonstrate that such person is a  
552 survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in  
553 persons and that domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
554 trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of  
555 such person's offense. The board may request testimony from mental  
556 health professionals or other relevant witnesses as the board sees fit.

557       (6) At such hearing, the board shall give substantial weight to any  
558 evidence that (A) the person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual  
559 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) domestic violence,  
560 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a contributing  
561 factor in the commission of the offense, in determining parole suitability  
562 as it may pertain to (i) whether there is a reasonable probability that  
563 such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the law,  
564 and (ii) whether the benefits to such person and society that would  
565 result from such person's release to community supervision  
566 substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and society that  
567 would result from such person's continued incarceration.

568       (7) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
569 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that the  
570 person is suitable for parole under this subsection, the board may allow  
571 such person to go at large on parole with respect to any portion of a  
572 sentence that was based on an offense or offenses committed for which  
573 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was  
574 a contributing factor. If the board determines that continued  
575 confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such person's  
576 suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date not earlier than two  
577 years after the date of the board's decision.

578       [(h)] (i) Any person released on parole under this section shall remain  
579 in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and be subject to  
580 supervision by personnel of the Department of Correction during such  
581 person's period of parole.

582       (j) Nothing in subsection (h) of this section shall preclude a defendant  
583 from seeking relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as amended by  
584 this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a, as amended  
585 by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence reduction or relief.

586       (k) Not later than January 15, 2028, and annually thereafter, the Board  
587 of Pardons and Paroles shall report on its Internet web site information

588 from the previous calendar year relevant to the use of subsection (h) of  
589 this section, as a basis for parole relief, including, but not limited to: (1)  
590 The number of applications submitted pursuant to subsection (h) of this  
591 section, and (2) the number of applications that were granted parole  
592 pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

593 Sec. 4. Section 54-130a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
594 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

595 (a) Jurisdiction over the granting of, and the authority to grant,  
596 commutations of punishment or releases, conditioned or absolute, in the  
597 case of any person convicted of any offense against the state and  
598 commutations from the penalty of death shall be vested in the Board of  
599 Pardons and Paroles.

600 (b) The board shall have authority to grant pardons, conditioned,  
601 provisional or absolute, or certificates of rehabilitation for any offense  
602 against the state at any time after the imposition and before or after the  
603 service of any sentence.

604 (c) The board may accept an application for a pardon three years after  
605 an applicant's conviction of a misdemeanor or violation and five years  
606 after an applicant's conviction of a felony, except that the board, upon a  
607 finding of extraordinary circumstances, may accept an application for a  
608 pardon prior to such dates.

609 (d) Prior to holding a session to consider whether to grant any  
610 commutation of punishment, release or pardon in the case of any person  
611 convicted of any offense against the state, the board shall, upon written  
612 request, provide the state's attorney for the jurisdictional district in  
613 which any conviction for such offense was obtained with a copy of the  
614 convicted person's application, any materials and documentation filed  
615 in support thereof, except for any information contained in the  
616 application, materials and documentation that are confidential,  
617 privileged and nondisclosable pursuant to state or federal law, any  
618 information obtained by the board about the convicted person pursuant

619 to section 54-130c, and shall permit such state's attorney, or such state's  
620 attorney's designee, to appear at such session for the purpose of making  
621 a statement for the record concerning whether the convicted person  
622 should be granted any such commutation of punishment, release or  
623 pardon.

624 (e) Whenever the board grants an absolute pardon to any person, the  
625 board shall cause notification of such pardon to be made in writing to  
626 the clerk of the court in which such person was convicted, or the Office  
627 of the Chief Court Administrator if such person was convicted in the  
628 Court of Common Pleas, the Circuit Court, a municipal court, or a trial  
629 justice court.

630 (f) Whenever the board grants a provisional pardon or a certificate of  
631 rehabilitation to any person, the board shall cause notification of such  
632 provisional pardon or certificate of rehabilitation to be made in writing  
633 to the clerk of the court in which such person was convicted. The  
634 granting of a provisional pardon or a certificate of rehabilitation does  
635 not entitle such person to erasure of the record of the conviction of the  
636 offense or relieve such person from disclosing the existence of such  
637 conviction as may be required.

638 (g) In the case of any person convicted of a violation for which a  
639 sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, the board shall  
640 have authority to grant a pardon, conditioned, provisional or absolute,  
641 or a certificate of rehabilitation in the same manner as in the case of any  
642 person convicted of an offense against the state.

643 (h) (1) For purposes of this subsection, "domestic violence", "sexual  
644 assault", "stalking", "trafficking in persons" and "contributing factor"  
645 have the same meaning as provided in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a,  
646 as amended by this act.

647 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f), inclusive,  
648 of this section, the board shall accept applications for commutations of  
649 sentences from any person who has a total effective sentence of an

650 aggregate term or terms of imprisonment of ten years or more and who  
651 has served at least ten years of such term, including any person who is  
652 not otherwise eligible for sentence commutation, (A) if such person is a  
653 survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in  
654 persons, and (B) for whom domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
655 trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of  
656 such person's offense. An applicant shall have the opportunity to apply  
657 for commutation under this subsection regardless of whether or not  
658 evidence regarding such person's survival of domestic violence, sexual  
659 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons had been presented or  
660 disclosed at such person's trial, sentencing hearing or any application  
661 for parole. If any person applied for and was denied commutation  
662 before January 1, 2026, such person may apply for sentence  
663 commutation under this subsection if such denial was for an application  
664 filed on or after January 1, 2021, and prior to January 1, 2026.

665 (3) At the time of application for sentence commutation under this  
666 subsection, the applicant shall submit at least two pieces of documented  
667 proof, which may include, but need not be limited to, documentation  
668 described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
669 amended by this act, corroborating the applicant's claim that such  
670 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
671 trafficking in persons.

672 (4) The board shall review any such application and the board shall  
673 give substantial weight to any evidence that (A) the applicant is a  
674 survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in  
675 persons, and (B) domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
676 in persons was a contributing factor in the commission of the offense for  
677 which the applicant is seeking sentence commutation.

678 (5) The board may hold a hearing to aid the board in determining  
679 whether the applicant's survival of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
680 stalking or trafficking in persons was a contributing factor in the  
681 commission of the applicant's offense. At such hearing, the board shall

682 allow the applicant to present relevant additional evidence. The board  
683 may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
684 relevant witnesses, as the board sees fit.

685 (i) Nothing in subsection (h) of this section shall preclude a defendant  
686 from seeking relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as amended by  
687 this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a, as amended  
688 by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence reduction or relief.

689 [(h)] (j) The board shall not deny any application for a pardon, unless  
690 the board provides a statement in writing to the applicant of the factors  
691 considered when determining whether the applicant qualified for the  
692 pardon and an explanation as to which factors were not satisfied. For  
693 any application submitted pursuant to subsection (h) of this section, the  
694 board shall articulate for the record the board's decision and the reasons  
695 for the decision to grant or deny commutation of sentence.

696 (k) Not later than January 15, 2028, and annually thereafter, the Board  
697 of Pardons and Paroles shall report on its Internet web site information  
698 from the previous calendar year relevant to the use of subsection (h) of  
699 this section as a basis for commutation of a sentence, including, but not  
700 limited to: (1) The number of applications submitted pursuant to  
701 subsection (h) of this section, and (2) the number of applications that  
702 were granted commutation pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

703 Sec. 5. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2027) Not later than January 15,  
704 2028, and annually thereafter, the Judicial Branch shall report on its  
705 Internet web site information from the previous calendar year relevant  
706 to sentencing relief provided on the basis that domestic violence, sexual  
707 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was found to be a contributing  
708 factor to the commission of a defendant's offense, including, but not  
709 limited to, (1) the number of defendants in each judicial district who  
710 were granted a lesser sentence pursuant to subsection (b) of section 53a-  
711 35a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) the number of  
712 defendants in each judicial district who applied for sentencing

713 modification pursuant to subsection (g) of section 53a-39 of the general  
714 statutes, as amended by this act, and (3) the number of defendants  
715 granted sentencing modification pursuant to subsection (g) of section  
716 53a-39 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	53a-35a
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	53a-39
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	54-125a
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	54-130a
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To permit survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons for whom violence or abuse suffered by such survivors was a contributing factor influencing such survivor to commit an offense to be eligible for a sentence reduction or relief.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*