



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5306**

February Session, 2026



**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 Section 53a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 finding by the  
40 court that (A) the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual  
41 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) domestic violence,  
42 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a significant  
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) "survivor" means an adult or  
46 child who has experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking,  
47 or trafficking in persons; (B) "domestic violence" has the same meaning  
48 as provided in subsection (b) of section 46b-1; (C) "sexual assault" means  
49 any act that constitutes a violation of section 53a-70b of the general  
50 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or section 53a-70,  
51 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a; (D) "stalking" means any  
52 act that constitutes a violation of section 53a-181c, 53a-181d, 53a-181e or  
53 53a-181f; (E) "trafficking in persons" means trafficking in persons under  
54 section 53a-192a or a criminal violation of 18 USC Chapter 77, as  
55 amended from time to time; and (F) "significant contributing factor"  
56 means that there is a substantial likelihood that the abuse suffered by  
57 the survivor influenced the survivor's commission of the crime without  
58 necessarily being the exclusive or overriding factor for the criminal  
59 conduct. In determining whether the abuse suffered by the survivor was  
60 a significant contributing factor, the court may consider the cumulative  
61 impact of the abuse suffered by the survivor together with the events  
62 immediately surrounding the crime.

63       (3) Such defendant shall provide the court at least two pieces of  
64 documented proof corroborating that the defendant is a survivor of  
65 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons that  
66 may include, but need not be limited to, a signed affidavit attesting to  
67 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; a court  
68 record; social services record; hospital record; law enforcement record;  
69 restraining order or protective order pursuant to section 46b-15, 46b-16a  
70 or 46b-38c, subsection (f) of section 53a-28 or section 53a-40e or 54-1k, or  
71 a foreign order of protection, as defined in section 46b-15a; sworn  
72 statement from a person with direct knowledge or other reliable  
73 evidence of the domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
74 in persons; documentation including written documents, photographs,  
75 text messages, electronic mail, videos and audio recordings submitted  
76 pursuant to the rules of the court and tending to support the claims of  
77 the defendant; records provided by a licensed medical care provider or  
78 mental health care provider; or sworn statements from a member of the

79 clergy, an attorney or a social worker, a teacher or other school  
80 professional, or a domestic violence counselor or sexual assault  
81 counselor, each as defined in section 52-146k, or other advocate acting  
82 on behalf of a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
83 trafficking in persons.

84 (4) At any time prior to sentencing, the court may consider testimony  
85 from witnesses offered by the prosecution or defense, consider oral and  
86 written arguments and consider any other evidence relevant to the  
87 court's determination of whether domestic violence, sexual assault,  
88 stalking or trafficking in persons was a significant contributing factor in  
89 the commission of the defendant's offense. Reliable hearsay evidence  
90 shall be admissible at the hearing for purposes of this subsection.

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

113 ten years imprisonment or less; (G) a term of ten years of imprisonment  
114 or more, up to, but not including, a term of twenty years imprisonment,  
115 shall be reduced to a term of five years imprisonment or less; (H) a term  
116 of five years of imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a term  
117 of ten years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of five years  
118 imprisonment or less; and (I) a term of three years of imprisonment or  
119 more, up to, but not including, a term of five years imprisonment, shall  
120 be reduced to a term of eighteen months imprisonment or less. The court  
121 shall state on the record that sentencing was determined in accordance  
122 with this subsection.

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

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

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

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

139 (b) [On] Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, on and  
140 after October 1, 2021, at any time during the period of a sentence in  
141 which a defendant has been sentenced prior to, on or after October 1,  
142 2021, to an executed period of incarceration of more than seven years as  
143 a result of a plea agreement, including an agreement in which there is  
144 an agreed upon range of sentence, upon agreement of the defendant and

145 the state's attorney to seek review of the sentence, the sentencing court  
146 or judge may, after hearing and for good cause shown, reduce the  
147 sentence, order the defendant discharged, or order the defendant  
148 discharged on probation or conditional discharge for a period not to  
149 exceed that to which the defendant could have been originally  
150 sentenced.

151 (c) If, after a hearing pursuant to this section, the sentencing court or  
152 judge denies or grants in full a motion to reduce a defendant's sentence  
153 or discharge the defendant, the defendant may not file a subsequent  
154 motion for relief under this section until five years have elapsed from  
155 the date of the most recent decision denying such defendant relief  
156 pursuant to this section. If, after a hearing pursuant to this section, the  
157 sentencing court or judge grants in part a motion to reduce a defendant's  
158 sentence, the defendant may not file a subsequent motion for relief  
159 under this section until three years from the date of the most recent  
160 decision granting such defendant relief pursuant to this section.

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

165 (e) At the time the defendant files a motion with the court, the  
166 defendant shall provide the state with a copy of the motion and any  
167 materials and documentation filed with the court in support of such  
168 motion.

169 (f) At a hearing held by the sentencing court or judge under this  
170 section, such court or judge shall permit any victim of the crime to  
171 appear before the court or judge for the purpose of making a statement  
172 for the record concerning whether or not the sentence of the defendant  
173 should be reduced, the defendant should be discharged or the  
174 defendant should be discharged on probation or conditional discharge  
175 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section. In lieu of such  
176 appearance, the victim may submit a written statement to the court or

177 judge and the court or judge shall make such statement a part of the  
178 record at the hearing. For the purposes of this subsection, "victim"  
179 means the victim, the legal representative of the victim or a member of  
180 the deceased victim's immediate family.

181 (g) (1) Any defendant filing a motion for sentence modification  
182 pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall have the  
183 opportunity to present evidence demonstrating that (A) the defendant  
184 is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
185 in persons, and (B) domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
186 trafficking in persons was a significant contributing factor in the  
187 commission of the offense.

188 (2) When possible, any motion for sentence modification under this  
189 subsection shall be heard by the original sentencing judge. If the original  
190 sentencing judge no longer serves within the judicial district in which  
191 the original sentence was imposed, the motion shall be randomly  
192 assigned to another judge in the judicial district in which the original  
193 sentence was imposed. A defendant is not eligible to make a motion  
194 under this subsection if such defendant was sentenced in accordance  
195 with subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as amended by this act.

196 (3) For purposes of this subsection "survivor", "domestic violence",  
197 "sexual assault", "stalking", "trafficking in persons" and "significant  
198 contributing factor" have the same meaning as provided in subsection  
199 (b) of section 53a-35a, as amended by this act.

200 (4) Any defendant seeking consideration pursuant to this subsection  
201 shall provide the court at least two pieces of documented proof  
202 corroborating that the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
203 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons that may include, but  
204 need not be limited to, a signed affidavit attesting to subparagraphs (A)  
205 and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; a court record; social  
206 services record; hospital record; law enforcement record; restraining  
207 order or protective order pursuant to section 46b-15, 46b-16a or 46b-38c,  
208 subsection (f) of section 53a-28 or section 53a-40e or 54-1k, or a foreign

209 order of protection, as defined in section 46b-15a; sworn statement from  
210 a person with direct knowledge or other credible evidence of the  
211 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons;  
212 documentation including written documents, photographs, text  
213 messages, electronic mail, videos, and audio recordings submitted  
214 pursuant to the rules of the court and tending to support the claims of  
215 the defendant; records provided by a licensed medical care provider or  
216 mental health care provider; or sworn statements from a member of the  
217 clergy, an attorney or a social worker, a teacher or other school  
218 professional, or a domestic violence counselor or sexual assault  
219 counselor, each as defined in section 52-146k, or other advocate acting  
220 on behalf of a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
221 trafficking in persons. Any defendant who complies with this  
222 subdivision shall be granted a hearing pursuant to this section.

223 (5) At a hearing held under this section, the court may take testimony  
224 from witnesses offered by the state or defense, consider oral and written  
225 arguments and consider any other evidence relevant to the court's  
226 finding of whether domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
227 trafficking in persons was a significant contributing factor in the  
228 commission of the defendant's offense. Reliable hearsay shall be  
229 admissible for purposes of this subsection. The court may determine  
230 that violence or abuse the defendant suffered due to being subjected to  
231 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was  
232 a significant contributing factor to the offense regardless of whether the  
233 defendant had previously raised evidence of domestic violence, sexual  
234 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons during the defendant's trial,  
235 plea negotiations or sentencing hearing.

236 (6) Regardless of whether the defendant is subject to a mandatory  
237 minimum sentence, if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence  
238 that (A) the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault,  
239 stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) domestic violence, sexual  
240 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was a significant contributing  
241 factor in the commission of the offense, the court may reduce the  
242 sentence in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section

243 53a-35a, as amended by this act.

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

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

251 (9) Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a defendant from  
252 seeking or obtaining relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 54-95c, 54-125a,  
253 as amended by this act, or 54-130a, as amended by this act, or any other  
254 statute pertaining to sentence reduction relief.

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

257 (a) A person convicted of one or more crimes who is incarcerated on  
258 or after October 1, 1990, who received a definite sentence or total  
259 effective sentence of more than two years, and who has been confined  
260 under such sentence or sentences for not less than one-half of the total  
261 effective sentence less any risk reduction credit earned under the  
262 provisions of section 18-98e or one-half of the most recent sentence  
263 imposed by the court less any risk reduction credit earned under the  
264 provisions of section 18-98e, whichever is greater, may be allowed to go  
265 at large on parole (1) in accordance with the provisions of section 54-  
266 125i, or (2) in the discretion of a panel of the Board of Pardons and  
267 Paroles, if (A) it appears from all available information, including any  
268 reports from the Commissioner of Correction that the panel may  
269 require, that there is a reasonable probability that such inmate will live  
270 and remain at liberty without violating the law, and (B) such release is  
271 not incompatible with the welfare of society. At the discretion of the  
272 panel, and under the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the  
273 panel including requiring the parolee to submit personal reports, the  
274 parolee shall be allowed to return to the parolee's home or to reside in a

275 residential community center, or to go elsewhere. The parolee shall,  
276 while on parole, remain under the jurisdiction of the board until the  
277 expiration of the maximum term or terms for which the parolee was  
278 sentenced less any risk reduction credit earned under the provisions of  
279 section 18-98e. Any parolee released on the condition that the parolee  
280 reside in a residential community center may be required to contribute  
281 to the cost incidental to such residence. Each order of parole shall fix the  
282 limits of the parolee's residence, which may be changed in the discretion  
283 of the board and the Commissioner of Correction. Within three weeks  
284 after the commitment of each person sentenced to more than two years,  
285 the state's attorney for the judicial district shall send to the Board of  
286 Pardons and Paroles the record, if any, of such person.

287 (b) (1) No person convicted of any of the following offenses, which  
288 was committed on or after July 1, 1981, shall be eligible for parole under  
289 subsection (a) of this section: (A) Capital felony, as provided under the  
290 provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, (B) murder  
291 with special circumstances, as provided under the provisions of section  
292 53a-54b in effect on or after April 25, 2012, (C) felony murder, as  
293 provided in section 53a-54c, (D) arson murder, as provided in section  
294 53a-54d, (E) murder, as provided in section 53a-54a, or (F) aggravated  
295 sexual assault in the first degree, as provided in section 53a-70a. (2) A  
296 person convicted of (A) a violation of section 53a-100aa or 53a-102, or  
297 (B) an offense, other than an offense specified in subdivision (1) of this  
298 subsection, where the underlying facts and circumstances of the offense  
299 involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force  
300 against another person shall be ineligible for parole under subsection (a)  
301 of this section until such person has served not less than eighty-five per  
302 cent of the definite sentence imposed.

303 (c) The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall, not later than July 1, 1996,  
304 adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to ensure that a person  
305 convicted of an offense described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of  
306 this section is not released on parole until such person has served eighty-  
307 five per cent of the definite sentence imposed by the court. Such  
308 regulations shall include guidelines and procedures for classifying a

309 person as a violent offender that are not limited to a consideration of the  
310 elements of the offense or offenses for which such person was convicted.

311 (d) The Board of Pardons and Paroles may hold a hearing to  
312 determine the suitability for parole release of any person whose  
313 eligibility for parole release is not subject to the provisions of subsection  
314 (b) of this section upon completion by such person of seventy-five per  
315 cent of such person's definite or total effective sentence less any risk  
316 reduction credit earned under the provisions of section 18-98e. An  
317 employee of the board or, if deemed necessary by the chairperson, a  
318 panel of the board shall assess the suitability for parole release of such  
319 person based on the following standards: (1) Whether there is  
320 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
321 without violating the law, and (2) whether the benefits to such person  
322 and society that would result from such person's release to community  
323 supervision substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and  
324 society that would result from such person's continued incarceration.  
325 The board shall give substantial weight to any evidence that (A) such  
326 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
327 trafficking in persons, as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
328 amended by this act, and (B) their experiences of domestic violence,  
329 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant  
330 contributing factor to the commission of the offense. If a hearing is held,  
331 and if the board determines that continued confinement is necessary,  
332 the board shall articulate for the record the specific reasons why such  
333 person and the public would not benefit from such person serving a  
334 period of parole supervision while transitioning from incarceration to  
335 the community. If a hearing is not held, the board shall document the  
336 specific reasons for not holding a hearing and provide such reasons to  
337 such person. No person shall be released on parole without receiving a  
338 hearing. The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be  
339 subject to appeal.

340 (e) The Board of Pardons and Paroles may hold a hearing to  
341 determine the suitability for parole release of any person whose  
342 eligibility for parole release is subject to the provisions of subdivision

343 (2) of subsection (b) of this section upon completion by such person of  
344 eighty-five per cent of such person's definite or total effective sentence.  
345 An employee of the board or, if deemed necessary by the chairperson, a  
346 panel of the board shall assess the suitability for parole release of such  
347 person based on the following standards: (1) Whether there is a  
348 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
349 without violating the law, and (2) whether the benefits to such person  
350 and society that would result from such person's release to community  
351 supervision substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and  
352 society that would result from such person's continued incarceration.  
353 The board shall give substantial weight to any evidence that (A) such  
354 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
355 trafficking in persons, as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
356 amended by this act, and (B) their experiences of domestic violence,  
357 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant  
358 contributing factor to the commission of the offense. If a hearing is held,  
359 and if the board determines that continued confinement is necessary,  
360 the board shall articulate for the record the specific reasons why such  
361 person and the public would not benefit from such person serving a  
362 period of parole supervision while transitioning from incarceration to  
363 the community. No hearing pursuant to the provisions of this  
364 subsection may proceed unless the parole release panel is in possession  
365 of the complete file for such applicant, including any documentation  
366 from the Department of Correction, the trial transcript, the sentencing  
367 record and any file of any previous parole hearing. Each member of the  
368 panel shall certify that all such documentation has been reviewed in  
369 preparation for such hearing. If a hearing is not held, the board shall  
370 document the specific reasons for not holding a hearing and provide  
371 such reasons to such person. No person shall be released on parole  
372 without receiving a hearing. The decision of the board under this  
373 subsection shall not be subject to appeal.

374 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (e),  
375 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
376 committed while such person was under eighteen years of age, who is

377 incarcerated on or after October 1, 2015, and who received a definite  
378 sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten years for such crime  
379 or crimes prior to, on or after October 1, 2015, may be allowed to go at  
380 large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the Board of Pardons  
381 and Paroles for the institution in which such person is confined,  
382 provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty years or less,  
383 such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty per cent of the  
384 sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such person is  
385 serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person shall be eligible  
386 for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this subsection shall  
387 limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the provisions of  
388 subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section if such person would be  
389 eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any of such provisions.

390 (2) The board shall apply the parole eligibility rules of this subsection  
391 only with respect to the sentence for a crime or crimes committed while  
392 a person was under eighteen years of age. Any portion of a sentence that  
393 is based on a crime or crimes committed while a person was eighteen  
394 years of age or older shall be subject to the applicable parole eligibility,  
395 suitability and release rules set forth in subsections (a) to (e), inclusive,  
396 of this section.

397 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
398 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
399 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
400 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
401 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
402 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
403 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such  
404 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
405 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
406 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
407 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
408 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement  
409 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
410 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of

411 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a. The  
412 board may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
413 relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of Correction or  
414 other persons, as the board may require. The board shall use validated  
415 risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-based  
416 structured decision making and release criteria established pursuant to  
417 subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a determination pursuant to  
418 this subsection.

419 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at large  
420 on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was based on a  
421 crime or crimes committed while such person was under eighteen years  
422 of age if the board finds that such parole release would be consistent  
423 with the factors set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of  
424 subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears, from all available  
425 information, including, but not limited to, any reports from the  
426 Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a reasonable probability  
427 that such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the  
428 law, (B) the benefits to such person and society that would result from  
429 such person's release to community supervision substantially outweigh  
430 the benefits to such person and society that would result from such  
431 person's continued incarceration, and (C) such person has demonstrated  
432 substantial rehabilitation since the date such crime or crimes were  
433 committed considering such person's character, background and  
434 history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but not limited to, such  
435 person's correctional record, the age and circumstances of such person  
436 as of the date of the commission of the crime or crimes, whether (i) such  
437 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
438 trafficking in persons, as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
439 amended by this act, and (ii) their experiences of domestic violence,  
440 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant  
441 contributing factor to the commission of the offense, whether such  
442 person has demonstrated remorse and increased maturity since the date  
443 of the commission of the crime or crimes, such person's contributions to  
444 the welfare of other persons through service, such person's efforts to

445 overcome substance abuse, addiction, trauma, lack of education or  
446 obstacles that such person may have faced as a child or youth in the  
447 adult correctional system, the opportunities for rehabilitation in the  
448 adult correctional system, whether the person has also applied for or  
449 received a sentence modification and the overall degree of such person's  
450 rehabilitation considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or  
451 crimes.

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

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

460 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f),  
461 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
462 committed while such person was under twenty-one years of age, who  
463 was sentenced on or before October 1, 2005, and who received a definite  
464 sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten years' incarceration  
465 for such crime or crimes committed on or before October 1, 2005, may  
466 be allowed to go at large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the  
467 Board of Pardons and Paroles for the institution in which such person is  
468 confined, provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty years  
469 or less, such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty per  
470 cent of the sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such  
471 person is serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person shall  
472 be eligible for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this  
473 subsection shall limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the  
474 provisions of subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of this section if such  
475 person would be eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any  
476 of such provisions.

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

484 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
485 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
486 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
487 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
488 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
489 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
490 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such  
491 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
492 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
493 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
494 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
495 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement  
496 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
497 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of  
498 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a. The  
499 board may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
500 relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of Correction or  
501 other persons, as the board may require. The board shall use validated  
502 risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-based  
503 structured decision making and release criteria established pursuant to  
504 subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a determination pursuant to  
505 this subsection.

506 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at large  
507 on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was based on a  
508 crime or crimes committed while such person was under twenty-one  
509 years of age, if the board finds that such parole release would be  
510 consistent with the factors set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive,

511 of subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears, from all available  
512 information, including, but not limited to, any reports from the  
513 Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a reasonable probability  
514 that such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the  
515 law, (B) the benefits to such person and society that would result from  
516 such person's release to community supervision substantially outweigh  
517 the benefits to such person and society that would result from such  
518 person's continued incarceration, and (C) such person has demonstrated  
519 substantial rehabilitation since the date such crime or crimes were  
520 committed considering such person's character, background and  
521 history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but not limited to, such  
522 person's correctional record, the age and circumstances of such person  
523 as of the date of the commission of the crime or crimes, whether (i) such  
524 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
525 trafficking in persons, as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
526 amended by this act, and (ii) their experiences of domestic violence,  
527 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant  
528 contributing factor to the commission of the offense, whether such  
529 person has demonstrated remorse and increased maturity since the date  
530 of the commission of the crime or crimes, such person's contributions to  
531 the welfare of other persons through service, such person's efforts to  
532 overcome substance abuse, addiction, trauma, lack of education or  
533 obstacles that such person may have faced as a person who was under  
534 twenty-one years of age in the adult correctional system, the  
535 opportunities for rehabilitation in the adult correctional system,  
536 whether the person has also applied for or received a sentence  
537 modification and the overall degree of such person's rehabilitation  
538 considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or crimes.

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

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

547 (h) Any person released on parole under this section shall remain in  
548 the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and be subject to  
549 supervision by personnel of the Department of Correction during such  
550 person's period of parole.

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

553 (a) Jurisdiction over the granting of, and the authority to grant,  
554 commutations of punishment or releases, conditioned or absolute, in the  
555 case of any person convicted of any offense against the state and  
556 commutations from the penalty of death shall be vested in the Board of  
557 Pardons and Paroles.

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

562 (c) The board may accept an application for a pardon three years after  
563 an applicant's conviction of a misdemeanor or violation and five years  
564 after an applicant's conviction of a felony, except that the board, upon a  
565 finding of extraordinary circumstances, may accept an application for a  
566 pardon prior to such dates.

567 (d) Prior to holding a session to consider whether to grant any  
568 commutation of punishment, release or pardon in the case of any person  
569 convicted of any offense against the state, the board shall, upon written  
570 request, provide the state's attorney for the jurisdictional district in  
571 which any conviction for such offense was obtained with a copy of the  
572 convicted person's application, any materials and documentation filed  
573 in support thereof, except for any information contained in the  
574 application, materials and documentation that are confidential,  
575 privileged and nondisclosable pursuant to state or federal law, any

576 information obtained by the board about the convicted person pursuant  
577 to section 54-130c, and shall permit such state's attorney, or such state's  
578 attorney's designee, to appear at such session for the purpose of making  
579 a statement for the record concerning whether the convicted person  
580 should be granted any such commutation of punishment, release or  
581 pardon.

582 (e) When reviewing the application for a pardon, the board shall give  
583 substantial weight to any evidence that (1) such person is a survivor of  
584 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, as  
585 defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as amended by this act, and  
586 (2) their experiences of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
587 trafficking in persons were a significant contributing factor to the  
588 commission of the offense.

589 [(e)] (f) Whenever the board grants an absolute pardon to any person,  
590 the board shall cause notification of such pardon to be made in writing  
591 to the clerk of the court in which such person was convicted, or the  
592 Office of the Chief Court Administrator if such person was convicted in  
593 the Court of Common Pleas, the Circuit Court, a municipal court, or a  
594 trial justice court.

595 [(f)] (g) Whenever the board grants a provisional pardon or a  
596 certificate of rehabilitation to any person, the board shall cause  
597 notification of such provisional pardon or certificate of rehabilitation to  
598 be made in writing to the clerk of the court in which such person was  
599 convicted. The granting of a provisional pardon or a certificate of  
600 rehabilitation does not entitle such person to erasure of the record of the  
601 conviction of the offense or relieve such person from disclosing the  
602 existence of such conviction as may be required.

603 [(g)] (h) In the case of any person convicted of a violation for which a  
604 sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, the board shall  
605 have authority to grant a pardon, conditioned, provisional or absolute,  
606 or a certificate of rehabilitation in the same manner as in the case of any  
607 person convicted of an offense against the state.

608 [(h)] (i) The board shall not deny any application for a pardon, unless  
609 the board provides a statement in writing to the applicant of the factors  
610 considered when determining whether the applicant qualified for the  
611 pardon and an explanation as to which factors were not satisfied.

612 Sec. 5. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2027) Not later than February 15,  
613 2028, and annually thereafter, the Judicial Branch shall report on its  
614 Internet web site information from the previous calendar year relevant  
615 to sentencing relief provided on the basis that domestic violence, sexual  
616 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was found to be a significant  
617 contributing factor to the commission of a defendant's offense,  
618 including, but not limited to, (1) the number of cases in each judicial  
619 district that were granted a lesser sentence pursuant to subsection (b) of  
620 section 53a-35a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) the  
621 number of cases in each judicial district for which there was an  
622 application for sentencing modification pursuant to subsection (g) of  
623 section 53a-39 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (3) the  
624 number of cases in each judicial district granted sentencing modification  
625 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 53a-39 of the general statutes, as  
626 amended by this act.

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

**JUD** Joint Favorable Subst.