
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5564

AN ACT CONCERNING VICTIM STATEMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR VICTIM NOTIFICATION.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes affecting crime victims' rights. Primarily, it:

1. requires the court to allow crime victims to make a statement for the record before any proceedings to dismiss or nolle a charge against the defendant for specified offenses (for example, a class A, D, C, and certain D felonies, among others);
2. requires state's attorneys to notify victims before sentencing or a plea agreement if the victim provides their up-to-date contact information, as opposed to providing a stamped, self-addressed postcard as under current law; and
3. requires the judicial branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS) to develop a concise informational document on victims' rights and assistance and give it to crime victims and the general public.

Lastly, it makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

VICTIM STATEMENT

Proceedings Involving Dismissal or Nolle

Similar to what existing law requires for cases involving plea agreements, the bill requires a court, before any proceeding to dismiss or nolle (prosecutor chooses to not prosecute) a charge against the defendant for any of the offenses below, to allow the crime victim to state his or her opinion about the charge being dismissed or a nolle being entered for the record.

As under existing law for this provision, a “victim” is a person who is a crime victim, his or her legal representative, a deceased victim’s immediate family member, or decision maker designated under law with certain rights and obligations by a deceased victim.

Applicable Offenses

Under the bill, the court must allow the victim to make a statement for the following offenses:

1. a class A, B, or C felony offense or an unclassified felony offense with a prison sentence of at least five years;
2. a class D felony offense for: 2nd degree assault with a firearm; 2nd degree assault of an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or a person with an intellectual disability (and 2nd degree assault of these individuals with a firearm); 2nd degree strangulation or suffocation; 3rd degree sexual assault; enticing a minor; 3rd degree burglary with a firearm; 1st degree stalking; unlawful dissemination of an intimate image; incest; obscenity as to minors; 3rd degree possession of child sexual abuse material; possession of a sawed off shotgun or slicer; criminal use of a firearm or electronic defense weapon; criminally negligent storage of a firearm; 2nd degree abuse; violation of certain sex offender registration requirements; or certain voyeurism violations;
3. a class A misdemeanor offense for: 3rd degree assault of an elderly, blind, disabled, or pregnant person or a person with an intellectual disability; 3rd degree strangulation; unlawful dissemination of an intimate image; or 3rd degree abuse; or
4. any other offense that is (a) a nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent offense, or (b) designated as a family violence crime.

VICTIM NOTIFICATION

Existing law allows all crime victims to make a statement for the record before sentencing and on any plea agreement before its

acceptance by the court.

Under current law, if the victim wishes to make or submit a statement, he or she must give a stamped, self-addressed postcard for the notification, in compliance with the state's attorney's request. The bill instead requires the victim to give the state's attorney, assistant state's attorney, deputy assistant state's attorney, or OVS up-to-date contact information to be notified of the hearing.

VICTIM INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT

The bill expands OVS's duties by requiring the office to give crime victims and the general public a concise informational document written in a way that is easy to understand in English, and in any other language the office deems necessary. It must include at least the following:

1. a summary of crime victim's constitutional and statutory rights in Connecticut,
2. an explanation of the way in which a victim may exercise and participate in the criminal justice process, and
3. a general overview of what a victim may expect throughout the criminal justice process.

The document must be available in printed form, upon request, and on the judicial branch's website. OVS must update the document as it deems necessary.

The bill also requires OVS to give this crime victim informational document to any victim who applies for the victim compensation program, within 10 days of receiving the application.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/30/2026)