
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 343

AN ACT CONCERNING FEES CHARGED FOR CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS.

SUMMARY

This bill waives certain fingerprinting and criminal history record search and pre-registration fees for individuals requesting them for their pardon applications.

Current law allows the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to waive the \$75 fee for a criminal history report for indigent individuals requesting it for their pardon application. The bill instead requires DESPP, up until July 1, 2029, to waive the fee for anyone applying for a pardon before reverting to current law.

The bill also waives the following fees up until July 1, 2029, for anyone applying for a pardon and on and after that date for indigent individuals applying for a pardon:

1. the convenience fee for fingerprinting of up to \$30 charged by independent contractors operating under an agreement with DESPP,
2. any processing or distribution fees charged for a criminal history report, and
3. any fee for electronically pre-registering with the Connecticut criminal history request system.

Under the bill, an individual seeking these fingerprinting or background check services on or after July 1, 2029, for their pardon application may apply for a fee waiver due to indigency on a DESPP-prescribed form. If the commissioner approves the waiver, DESPP must

waive the fee. The bill requires the DESPP commissioner to reimburse independent contractors for any waivers he approves for their convenience fees.

The bill requires the DESPP commissioner, by July 1, 2029, to post the fee waiver forms described above on the State Police Bureau of Identification's website and give them to each location where a municipal police department provides fingerprinting services. These locations must prominently display the forms, together with other materials and documents needed for pardon applications.

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 31 Nay 10 (03/30/2026)