

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Legislative Office Building, Room 2600

Hartford, CT

Members Present: *Michael Lawlor (Committee Chair), Judge Shortall (Commission Chair), Vivien Blackford, Hon. David Borden, Hon. Patrick Carroll, Kevin Kane, Thomas Ullmann*

Also Participating: Andrew Clark (Acting Executive Director), Jason DePatie

MINUTES

I. MEETING CONVENED

Mike Lawlor called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF January 4, 2012

The minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2012 were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Andrew Clark reported on the status of four bills the Sentencing Commission submitted to the legislature:

A. Certificates of Relief From Barriers

CT General Assembly Link:

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=453&which_year=2012

After the Judiciary Committee public hearing, a small group met with CONN NAHRO to discuss the concerns of local housing authorities in regard to the language addressing public housing. An agreement was reached with CONN NAHRO, but local housing authorities continued to voice concerns which resulted in the provision being stripped from the bill before it reached the Senate floor. Unfortunately, due to unrelated political maneuvering and the time constraints of legislative session, the bill did not make it out of the Senate. In its last form, only judges could issue certificates upon a recommendation from probation.

B. Juvenile Sentence Reconsideration

CT General Assembly Link:

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CommDocTmyBillAllComm.asp?bill=HB-05546&doc_year=2012

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In a conversation with the chairs of the Judiciary Committee it was determined that a study bill was not necessary and they would like the Commission to come back with a proposal on juvenile sentence modification next year.

C. Misdemeanor Classification

CT General Assembly Link:

http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=5145&which_year=2012

The misdemeanor classification bill passed with no major issues and a ceremonial bill signing has been requested.

D. Kidnapping and Sexual Assault in the Fourth Degree

A Judiciary public hearing was held discussing the technical changes to the kidnapping and sexual assault in the fourth degree statutes. One of the changes was added to a technical revision bill. Judge Devlin explained afterward that the language in the OLR summary of the bill may have confused legislators.

E. Funding

Mike Lawlor updated members on the \$85,000 line item for the Commission in the Governor's budget. Unfortunately due to budget constraints this item was removed at the last minute. Since then, Mike Lawlor had a conversation with Ben Barnes and a commitment was made to make funds available.

IV. DISCUSSION: COMMISSION CONSENSUS PROCESS

The committee discussed the importance of members making their views known as part of the Commission's deliberative process. It was agreed that members have an obligation to make their objections known so that the Commission is not surprised at the legislature. This allows the Commission to work through objections and consider policy alternatives before making recommendations.

The Commission's consensus decision-making policy is available online at:

<http://www.ct.gov/opm/csc>.

V. DISCUSSION: COMMISSION MEMBER'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The committee members agreed to defer the creation of a Conflict of Interest Policy until such time when the Commission is fully funded.

VI. DISCUSSION: ROLE OF NON-COMMISSION MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES

It was agreed that the Committee Chairs would have discretion over how non-commission members participate in committees and working groups.

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VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Committee members discussed a proposal is to add the Judiciary Chairs and ranking members to the Commission.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.