

Clarifying False Statement Statutes

The Connecticut Sentencing Commission's Goal

The Sentencing Commission has recognized that there are inconsistencies and logistical issues with many of Connecticut's statutes. The Classification Working Group has been charged with addressing these issues and proposing changes that will streamline Connecticut's statutes. There are many laws in Connecticut pertaining to the penalties for "false statements". Connecticut has a total of 293 "false statement" statutes which can be broken down as follows: 35 statutes cite false statements in the 1st degree and 2nd degree (Sec. 53a-157a, Sec. 153a-157b), 96 statutes utilize the term "under penalty of false statement," and 162 statutes contain different and conflicting elements.

The Proposed Legislation

To address these inconsistencies, the Classification Working Group and the Sentencing Commission recommends:

- False Statement in the 1st Degree (Sec. 53a-157a) be renamed "False Statement on a Certified Payroll"
- Clarifying language be added to False Statement in the 1st Degree
- False Statement in the 2nd Degree (Sec. 53a-157b) be replaced with model statutory language which clarifies the elements of false statements.

The Working Group's long term goal is for state agencies to align the elements in their existing statutes to the model.