

DRAFT

Connecticut Sentencing Commission

Policy on Consensus Decision Making

1. All proposals for changes in sentencing and other criminal justice matters within the Commission's jurisdiction will be fully discussed among the members of the Commission, with all members having an opportunity to state their positions in favor of or in opposition to the proposal. Each member will be expected to engage fully in this discussion and raise for consideration by the Commission any objection(s) the member may have so that the objection(s) may be addressed in the decision-making process.

The objective of this process will be to generate proposals with which all members of the Commission agree or, if a member is not in agreement, which that member can "live with."

2. After discussion, the chair will inquire of the members whether each member is in agreement with the proposal or, if a member is not in agreement, whether the member can "live with" the proposal.

If all members are in agreement or those members not in agreement state that they can "live with" the proposal, the proposal will be considered a consensus proposal of the Commission.

3. If any member(s) of the Commission indicates that the member is not in agreement with a proposal and cannot "live with" the proposal, the chair will call for a vote on the proposal.

4. If the proposal receives the votes of a majority of

the Commission members present at the meeting, the chair and vice-chair will decide whether the size of the majority vote is sufficient to justify designating the proposal as one which carries the endorsement of the Commission.

The chair and vice-chair or any other representative of the Commission, in communicating the Commission's endorsement of a proposal, shall state whether the proposal is a consensus proposal, as defined above, or the result of a vote of the Commission and the size of the majority vote in favor of the proposal.

5. Members of the Commission are free to express their opposition to a proposal endorsed by the Commission. It is the expectation of the Commission that a member intending to express opposition to a Commission proposal will inform the chair or vice-chair of the member's intention in sufficient time as to give the chair or vice-chair an opportunity to discuss with the member the grounds for the member's opposition.