



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SENTENCING COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7th, 2017

**“REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
PRETRIAL RELEASE AND DETENTION IN CONNECTICUT”**

Released by the Sentencing Commission

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Sentencing Commission has released a report on its study of Connecticut’s pretrial justice system that includes recommendations for its improvement.

In November, 2015, Governor Dannel P. Malloy asked the Commission to study Connecticut’s pretrial justice system, including an examination of the state’s current bail bond system, and investigate the possibility for its reform. On February 2nd, 2017, after a comprehensive evaluation of Connecticut’s pretrial detention and release system, the Commission voted to adopt this report and its recommendations. The report reflects the knowledge, insight, experience and contributions of a broad range of policymakers, practitioners, stakeholders and researchers.

Summary of recommendations adopted by the Commission:

Recommendation 1

Legislation should be enacted requiring that the court make a finding on the record before imposing secured financial conditions in misdemeanor cases.

Recommendation 2

The bail review period should be shortened and modified for certain individuals who remain detained after the imposition of secured financial conditions.

Recommendation 3

Legislation should be enacted permitting a defendant to deposit 10% of the bond amount with the court whenever a surety bond of \$10,000 or less is imposed.

Recommendation 4

Judicial Branch bail staff should have adequate opportunity to review and make release decisions following every warrantless custodial arrest.

Recommendation 5

The Sentencing Commission should continue to evaluate the effectiveness and fairness of Connecticut's pretrial justice system.

Recommendation 6

Lawyers, judges, and other stakeholders should receive regular training on current best practices in the area of pretrial release and detention decision making.

Recommendation 7

The Judicial Branch, its Division of Public Defender Services, and the Division of Criminal Justice should have adequate support and resources to consider alternatives to prosecution.

Recommendation 8

The Commission should continue to investigate the feasibility of a carefully limited preventive detention system.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ct.gov/ctsc

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Connecticut Sentencing Commission