



*Division of Public Defender Services
State of Connecticut*

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
APRIL 5, 2013**

**RAISED BILL 6678, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SERVICE OF A CAPIAS MITTIMUS IN A
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT MATTER**

The Office of Chief Public Defender is concerned that **Raised Bill 6678, An Act Concerning the Service of a Capias Mittimus in a Child Support Enforcement Matter** will result in increased fiscal obligations for this agency. A capias is a civil order to take a person into custody for violating the court's order to pay child support. This proposal would give police officers easier access to support enforcement records and would authorize law enforcement to execute the civil order. A similar proposal allowing judicial marshal's to execute capias orders is before the Human Services Committee as **Raised Bill 6369, An Act Concerning Child Support and Enforcement**. This proposal is aimed at increasing the execution of capias orders issued when an obligor is found in contempt for failure to pay child support.

While the Office of Chief Public Defender recognizes that the collection of child support is important to the state and to the families affected, an increase in the number of capias orders executed will impact our budget. OCPD is responsible for contracting with lawyers to represent people who are taken into custody on these orders. We currently contract with lawyers to cover courts on specific days and have one floater who handles unscheduled capias execution matters. If these increase because more officials are authorized to execute the court order, significant costs could result making it necessary for additional financial resources to be appropriated to this agency in order for this agency to expand our contract and comply with our statutory obligation to provide counsel.