



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1134

LCO No. 4900



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECRUITMENT OF LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR APPRENTICE PROSECUTOR POSITIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 51-278 of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) (1) (A) The Criminal Justice Commission shall appoint (i) two
5 deputy chief state's attorneys as assistant administrative heads of the
6 Division of Criminal Justice, one of whom shall be deputy chief state's
7 attorney for operations and one of whom shall be deputy chief state's
8 attorney for personnel, finance and administration, who shall assist the
9 Chief State's Attorney in his duties, and (ii) one deputy chief state's
10 attorney who shall be appointed by the commission, as provided in
11 subdivision (8) of this subsection, to serve as Inspector General in
12 accordance with section 51-277e, who shall receive his or her
13 prosecutorial powers as a designee of the Chief State's Attorney. The
14 term of office of a deputy chief state's attorney shall be four years from
15 July first in the year of appointment and until the appointment and

16 qualification of a successor unless sooner removed by the Criminal
17 Justice Commission. The Criminal Justice Commission shall designate
18 one deputy chief state's attorney appointed under subparagraph (A)(i)
19 of this subsection who shall, in the absence or disqualification of the
20 Chief State's Attorney, exercise the powers and duties of the Chief
21 State's Attorney until such Chief State's Attorney resumes his duties. For
22 the purposes of this subparagraph, the Criminal Justice Commission
23 means the members of the commission other than the Chief State's
24 Attorney. (B) The Criminal Justice Commission shall appoint a state's
25 attorney for each judicial district, who shall act therein as attorney on
26 behalf of the state. The Criminal Justice Commission shall also appoint,
27 from candidates recommended by the appropriate state's attorney and
28 deemed qualified by the commission, as many assistant state's attorneys
29 and deputy assistant state's attorneys on a full-time or part-time basis
30 for each judicial district as the criminal business of the court, in the
31 opinion of the Chief State's Attorney, may require, and the commission
32 shall also appoint, from candidates recommended by the Chief State's
33 Attorney and deemed qualified by the commission, as many assistant
34 state's attorneys and deputy assistant state's attorneys as are necessary,
35 in the opinion of the Chief State's Attorney, to assist the Chief State's
36 Attorney. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section
37 51-278a, the commission may interview and appoint to the position of
38 apprentice prosecutor any student of an accredited law school who is in
39 the second semester of such student's third year of studies and who is a
40 certified legal intern pursuant to the rules of the Superior Court. Any
41 person so appointed shall advance to the position of deputy assistant
42 state's attorney upon such person gaining admission to the Connecticut
43 bar within one year of the date of such person's graduation from such
44 law school. Assistant state's attorneys and deputy assistant state's
45 attorneys, respectively, shall assist the state's attorneys for the judicial
46 districts and the Chief State's Attorney in all criminal matters and, in the
47 absence from the district or disability of the state's attorney or at his
48 request, shall have and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties
49 of state's attorney. At least three such assistant state's attorneys or
50 deputy assistant state's attorneys shall be designated by the Chief State's

51 Attorney to handle all prosecutions in the state of housing matters
52 deemed to be criminal. Any assistant or deputy assistant state's attorney
53 so designated should have a commitment to the maintenance of decent,
54 safe and sanitary housing and, to the extent practicable, shall handle
55 housing matters on a full-time basis. At least one assistant state's
56 attorney shall be designated by the Chief State's Attorney to handle all
57 prosecutions in the state of environmental matters deemed to be
58 criminal. Any assistant state's attorney so designated should have a
59 commitment to protecting the environment and, to the extent
60 practicable, shall handle environmental matters on a full-time basis. (C)
61 The Chief State's Attorney may promote any assistant state's attorney,
62 or deputy assistant state's attorney who assists him, and the appropriate
63 state's attorney may promote any assistant state's attorney or deputy
64 assistant state's attorney who assists such state's attorney in the judicial
65 district. The Chief State's Attorney shall notify the Criminal Justice
66 Commission of any such promotion.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	51-278(b)(1)

Statement of Purpose:

To allow the Division of Criminal Justice to appoint third-year, second semester law school students as apprentice prosecutors who shall advance to the position of deputy assistant state's attorney upon gaining admission to the Connecticut bar within one year of the date of such student's graduation from law school.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]