

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

No. 2015-6

Proposed Resolution Regarding a Study of Connecticut's Bail Bond System

Resolution

1 **RESOLVED**, That the Connecticut Sentencing Commission study Connecticut's current
2 bail bond system and the possibility for its reform.
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DRAFT

Report

On November 5, 2015, Governor Dannel Malloy wrote a letter to the Connecticut Sentencing Commission requesting a study of “Connecticut’s current bail bond system and the possibility of its reform.”

The Governor asked the Commission to focus on the non-violent, low level pretrial population. These defendants may be incarcerated not because they are dangerous or a flight risk, but simply because they do not have the financial resources to post a bond. Nevertheless, in asking the Commission to examine bail systems and reform efforts in other American jurisdictions, the Governor also requested that the Commission provide “an analysis of potential ways Connecticut can focus pretrial incarceration efforts on individuals who are dangerous and/or a flight risk, as well as ways to reduce ‘bail inflation’” in the state. Thus, the request covers both “bail” and “no bail” – detention and release– and therefore provides an excellent opportunity for Connecticut to thoroughly and thoughtfully examine the current state of pretrial justice system.

The letter concludes by asking the Commission to let the Governor’s office know by January 15, 2016, how soon the Commission could provide recommendations on the raised topics.

Following the model used by other states, we can predict with some confidence that once the study group is created, it will likely be able to make substantial recommendations within approximately one year, completing its work before the beginning of the 2017 legislative session. The Commission will utilize technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and will collaborate with other state and national stakeholders for this study.

This resolution serves as an acceptance of the governor’s request along with a formal commitment to examine and analyze Connecticut’s current bail bond system.