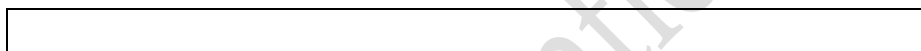


General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**File No.**

Bill No.



**AN ACT CONCERNING SENTENCE REDUCTION OR RELIEF FOR  
SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT,  
STALKING OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 53a-35a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

3 **[For]** (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for any  
4 felony committed on or after July 1, 1981, the sentence of imprisonment  
5 shall be a definite sentence and, unless the section of the general statutes  
6 that defines or provides the penalty for the crime specifically provides  
7 otherwise, the term shall be fixed by the court as follows:

8 (1) (A) For a capital felony committed prior to April 25, 2012, under  
9 the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, a term  
10 of life imprisonment without the possibility of release unless a sentence  
11 of death is imposed in accordance with section 53a-46a, or (B) for the  
12 class A felony of murder with special circumstances committed on or  
13 after April 25, 2012, under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect on  
14 or after April 25, 2012, a term of life imprisonment without the  
15 possibility of release;

16 (2) For the class A felony of murder, a term not less than twenty-five

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17 years nor more than life;

18 (3) For the class A felony of aggravated sexual assault of a minor  
19 under section 53a-70c, a term not less than twenty-five years or more  
20 than fifty years;

21 (4) For a class A felony other than an offense specified in subdivision  
22 (2) or (3) of this section, a term not less than ten years nor more than  
23 twenty-five years;

24 (5) For the class B felony of manslaughter in the first degree with a  
25 firearm under section 53a-55a, a term not less than five years nor more  
26 than forty years;

27 (6) For a class B felony other than manslaughter in the first degree  
28 with a firearm under section 53a-55a, a term not less than one year nor  
29 more than twenty years;

30 (7) For a class C felony, a term not less than one year nor more than  
31 ten years;

32 (8) For a class D felony, a term not more than five years;

33 (9) For a class E felony, a term not more than three years; and

34 (10) For an unclassified felony, a term in accordance with the sentence  
35 specified in the section of the general statutes that defines or provides  
36 the penalty for the crime.

37 (b) (1) Prior to a court imposing a sentence of imprisonment for a  
38 felony offense, a defendant may move for application of this subsection  
39 to such defendant's sentence. Upon such motion and a determination by  
40 the court that (A) the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
41 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) their  
42 experiences of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
43 in persons were a significant contributing factor to the commission of  
44 the offense, the court shall impose a sentence in accordance with this  
45 subsection.

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46       (2) For purposes of this subsection, (A) "survivor" means an adult or  
47       child who has experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking,  
48       or trafficking in persons; (B) "domestic violence" has the same meaning  
49       as provided in subsection (b) of section 46b-1; (C) "sexual assault" means  
50       any act that constitutes a violation of section 53a-70b of the general  
51       statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or section 53a-70,  
52       53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a; (D) "stalking" means any  
53       act that constitutes a violation of section 53a-181c, 53a-181d, 53a-181e or  
54       53a-181f; (E) "trafficking in persons" means trafficking in persons under  
55       section 53a-192a or a criminal violation of 18 USC Chapter 77, as  
56       amended from time to time; and (F) "significant contributing factor"  
57       means that there is a substantial likelihood that the abuse suffered by  
58       the survivor influenced the survivor's commission of the crime, without  
59       necessarily being the exclusive or overriding factor for the criminal  
60       conduct. In determining whether the abuse suffered by the survivor was  
61       a significant contributing factor, the court may consider the cumulative  
62       impact of the abuse suffered by the survivor together with the events  
63       immediately surrounding the crime..

64       (3) Such defendant shall provide the court at least one piece of  
65       documentary evidence corroborating that the defendant is a survivor of  
66       domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons that  
67       may include, but need not be limited to, a signed affidavit attesting to  
68       subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; a court  
69       record; presentence report; social services record; hospital record; law  
70       enforcement record; restraining order or protective order pursuant to  
71       section 46b-15, 46b-16a or 46b-38c, subsection (f) of section 53a-28 or  
72       section 53a-40e or 54-1k, or a foreign order of protection, as defined in  
73       section 46b-15a; sworn statement from a person with direct or indirect  
74       knowledge of the domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
75       trafficking in persons; documentation, including written documents,  
76       photographs, text messages, emails, videos, and audio recordings  
77       tending to support the claims of the defendant; records provided by a  
78       licensed medical care provider or mental health care provider; or sworn  
79       statements from a member of the clergy, an attorney or a social worker,  
80       a teacher or other school professional, or a domestic violence counselor

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81 or sexual assault counselor, each as defined in section 52-146k, or other  
82 advocate acting on behalf of a survivor of domestic violence, sexual  
83 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons.

84 (4) At any time prior to sentencing, the court shall consider testimony  
85 from witnesses offered by the prosecution or defense, consider oral and  
86 written arguments and consider any other evidence relevant to the  
87 court's determination of whether domestic violence, sexual assault,  
88 stalking or trafficking in persons was a significant contributing factor to  
89 the commission of the defendant's offense. Reliable hearsay evidence  
90 shall be admissible at the hearing for purposes of this subsection.

91 (5) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes providing  
92 a term of imprisonment for a felony offense, including a mandatory  
93 minimum sentence, if the court finds by a preponderance of the  
94 evidence that domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
95 in persons was a significant contributing factor to the commission of the  
96 offense, the court shall depart from the applicable sentence under  
97 subsection (a) of this section or the sentence provided under the section  
98 of the general statutes for the applicable offense, to the ranges provided  
99 as follows: (A) A term of life imprisonment without the possibility of  
100 release shall be reduced to a term of fifteen years imprisonment or less;  
101 (B) a term of fifty years of imprisonment or more, but not life  
102 imprisonment without the possibility of release, shall be reduced to a  
103 term of twelve years imprisonment or less; (C) a term of forty years of  
104 imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, fifty years  
105 imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of ten to twelve years  
106 imprisonment or less; (D) a term of thirty years of imprisonment or  
107 more, up to, but not including, a term of forty years imprisonment, shall  
108 be reduced to a term of seven to nine years imprisonment or less; (E) a  
109 term of twenty-five years of imprisonment or more, up to, but not  
110 including, a term of thirty years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a  
111 term of six to seven years imprisonment or less; (F) a term of twenty  
112 years of imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a term of  
113 twenty-five years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of five to six  
114 years imprisonment or less; (G) a term of ten years of imprisonment or

115 more, up to, but not including, a term of twenty years imprisonment,  
116 shall be reduced to a term of two to five years imprisonment or less; (H)  
117 a term of five years of imprisonment or more, up to, but not including,  
118 a term of ten years imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of one to  
119 two years imprisonment or less; and (I) a term of three years of  
120 imprisonment or more, up to, but not including, a term of five years  
121 imprisonment, shall be reduced to a term of six months to one year  
122 imprisonment or less. The court may impose a sentence that does not  
123 include incarceration, or may direct that the execution of the sentence,  
124 or any part thereof, be suspended and that the defendant be placed on  
125 probation for such time and on such terms and conditions as it shall set  
126 pursuant to section 53a-29. The court shall state on the record that  
127 sentencing was determined in accordance with this subsection.

128 (6) If the court finds that such defendant has not met the requirements  
129 to apply for relief as provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
130 the court shall deny such defendant's motion without prejudice.

131 (7) The right to file an application and obtain relief under this  
132 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be waivable and is not barred  
133 by any plea agreement.

134 (8) Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a defendant from  
135 seeking or obtaining relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as  
136 amended by this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a,  
137 as amended by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence  
138 reduction relief.

139 Sec. 2. Section 53a-39 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
140 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

141 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, at any time  
142 during an executed period of incarceration, the sentencing court or  
143 judge may, after hearing and for good cause shown, reduce the sentence,  
144 order the defendant discharged, or order the defendant discharged on  
145 probation or conditional discharge for a period not to exceed that to  
146 which the defendant could have been originally sentenced.

147 (b) **[On]** Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, on and  
148 after October 1, 2021, at any time during the period of a sentence in  
149 which a defendant has been sentenced prior to, on or after October 1,  
150 2021, to an executed period of incarceration of more than seven years as  
151 a result of a plea agreement, including an agreement in which there is  
152 an agreed upon range of sentence, upon agreement of the defendant and  
153 the state's attorney to seek review of the sentence, the sentencing court  
154 or judge may, after hearing and for good cause shown, reduce the  
155 sentence, order the defendant discharged, or order the defendant  
156 discharged on probation or conditional discharge for a period not to  
157 exceed that to which the defendant could have been originally  
158 sentenced.

159 (c) If, after a hearing pursuant to this section, the sentencing court or  
160 judge denies or grants in full a motion to reduce a defendant's sentence  
161 or discharge the defendant, the defendant may not file a subsequent  
162 motion for relief under this section until five years have elapsed from  
163 the date of the most recent decision denying such defendant relief  
164 pursuant to this section. If, after a hearing pursuant to this section, the  
165 sentencing court or judge grants in part a motion to reduce a defendant's  
166 sentence, the defendant may not file a subsequent motion for relief  
167 under this section until three years from the date of the most recent  
168 decision granting such defendant relief pursuant to this section.

169 (d) **[The]** Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, the  
170 provisions of this section shall not apply to any portion of a sentence  
171 imposed that is a mandatory minimum sentence for an offense which  
172 may not be suspended or reduced by the court.

173 (e) At the time the defendant files a motion with the court, the  
174 defendant shall provide the state with a copy of the motion and any  
175 materials and documentation filed with the court in support of such  
176 motion.

177 (f) At a hearing held by the sentencing court or judge under this  
178 section, such court or judge shall permit any victim of the crime to  
179 appear before the court or judge for the purpose of making a statement

180 for the record concerning whether or not the sentence of the defendant  
181 should be reduced, the defendant should be discharged or the  
182 defendant should be discharged on probation or conditional discharge  
183 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section. In lieu of such  
184 appearance, the victim may submit a written statement to the court or  
185 judge and the court or judge shall make such statement a part of the  
186 record at the hearing. For the purposes of this subsection, "victim"  
187 means the victim, the legal representative of the victim or a member of  
188 the deceased victim's immediate family.

189 (g) (1) Any defendant filing a motion for sentence modification  
190 pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this subsection shall have the  
191 opportunity to present evidence demonstrating that (A) the defendant  
192 is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
193 in persons, and (B) their experiences of domestic violence, sexual  
194 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant contributing  
195 factor to the commission of the offense.

196 (2) When possible, any motion for sentence modification under this  
197 subsection shall be heard by the original sentencing judge. A defendant  
198 is not eligible to make a motion under this subsection if such defendant  
199 was sentenced in accordance with subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
200 amended by this act.

201 (3) For purposes of this subsection "survivor", "domestic violence",  
202 "sexual assault", "stalking", "trafficking in persons", and "significant  
203 contributing factor" have the same meaning as provided in subsection  
204 (b) of section 53a-35a, as amended by this act.

205 (4) Any defendant seeking consideration pursuant to this subsection  
206 shall provide the court at least one piece of documentary evidence  
207 corroborating that the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
208 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons that may include, but  
209 need not be limited to, a signed affidavit attesting to subparagraphs (A)  
210 and (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; a court record; presentence  
211 report; social services record; hospital record; law enforcement record;  
212 restraining order or protective order pursuant to section 46b-15, 46b-16a



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213 or 46b-38c, subsection (f) of section 53a-28 or section 53a-40e or 54-1k, or  
214 a foreign order of protection, as defined in section 46b-15a; sworn  
215 statement from a person with direct or indirect knowledge of the  
216 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons;  
217 documentation, including written documents, photographs, text  
218 messages, emails, videos, and audio recordings tending to support the  
219 claims of the defendant; records provided by a licensed medical care  
220 provider or mental health care provider; or sworn statements from a  
221 member of the clergy, an attorney or a social worker, a teacher or other  
222 school professional, or a domestic violence counselor or sexual assault  
223 counselor, each as defined in section 52-146k, or other advocate acting  
224 on behalf of a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
225 trafficking in persons. Any defendant who complies with this  
226 subdivision shall be granted a hearing pursuant to this section.

227 (5) At a hearing held under this section, the court shall take testimony  
228 from witnesses offered by the state or defense, consider oral and written  
229 arguments and consider any other evidence relevant to the court's  
230 determination of whether domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
231 trafficking in persons was a significant contributing factor to the  
232 commission of the defendant's offense. Reliable hearsay shall be  
233 admissible for purposes of this subsection. The court may determine  
234 that violence or abuse the defendant suffered due to being subjected to  
235 domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons was  
236 a significant contributing factor to the offense regardless of whether the  
237 defendant had previously raised evidence of domestic violence, sexual  
238 assault, stalking or trafficking in persons during the defendant's trial,  
239 plea negotiations or sentencing hearing.

240 (6) Regardless of whether the defendant is subject to a mandatory  
241 minimum sentence, if the court finds by a preponderance of the  
242 evidence that (A) the defendant is a survivor of domestic violence,  
243 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons, and (B) their  
244 experiences of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking  
245 in persons were a significant contributing factor to the commission of  
246 the offense, the court shall reduce the sentence in accordance with



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247 subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as amended by this  
248 act. A person whose time served exceeds the period of incarceration  
249 required by their reduced sentence shall be released.

250 (7) The court may waive the timeline under subsection (c) of this  
251 section if the defendant presents new evidence or shows good cause for  
252 delay in presenting evidence.

253 (8) If the court finds that such defendant has not met the requirements  
254 to apply for relief as provided for in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
255 the court shall notify the defendant and deny such defendant's request  
256 without prejudice.

257 (9) Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a defendant from  
258 seeking or obtaining relief under section 51-195, 51-196, 53a-39, as  
259 amended by this act, 54-95c, 54-125a, as amended by this act, or 54-130a,  
260 as amended by this act, or any other statute pertaining to sentence  
261 reduction relief.

262 Sec. 3. Section 54-125a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
263 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

264 (a) A person convicted of one or more crimes who is incarcerated on  
265 or after October 1, 1990, who received a definite sentence or total  
266 effective sentence of more than two years, and who has been confined  
267 under such sentence or sentences for not less than one-half of the total  
268 effective sentence less any risk reduction credit earned under the  
269 provisions of section 18-98e or one-half of the most recent sentence  
270 imposed by the court less any risk reduction credit earned under the  
271 provisions of section 18-98e, whichever is greater, may be allowed to go  
272 at large on parole (1) in accordance with the provisions of section 54-  
273 125i, or (2) in the discretion of a panel of the Board of Pardons and  
274 Paroles, if (A) it appears from all available information, including any  
275 reports from the Commissioner of Correction that the panel may  
276 require, that there is a reasonable probability that such inmate will live  
277 and remain at liberty without violating the law, and (B) such release is  
278 not incompatible with the welfare of society. At the discretion of the

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279 panel, and under the terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the  
280 panel including requiring the parolee to submit personal reports, the  
281 parolee shall be allowed to return to the parolee's home or to reside in a  
282 residential community center, or to go elsewhere. The parolee shall,  
283 while on parole, remain under the jurisdiction of the board until the  
284 expiration of the maximum term or terms for which the parolee was  
285 sentenced less any risk reduction credit earned under the provisions of  
286 section 18-98e. Any parolee released on the condition that the parolee  
287 reside in a residential community center may be required to contribute  
288 to the cost incidental to such residence. Each order of parole shall fix the  
289 limits of the parolee's residence, which may be changed in the discretion  
290 of the board and the Commissioner of Correction. Within three weeks  
291 after the commitment of each person sentenced to more than two years,  
292 the state's attorney for the judicial district shall send to the Board of  
293 Pardons and Paroles the record, if any, of such person.

294 (b) (1) No person convicted of any of the following offenses, which  
295 was committed on or after July 1, 1981, shall be eligible for parole under  
296 subsection (a) of this section: (A) Capital felony, as provided under the  
297 provisions of section 53a-54b in effect prior to April 25, 2012, (B) murder  
298 with special circumstances, as provided under the provisions of section  
299 53a-54b in effect on or after April 25, 2012, (C) felony murder, as  
300 provided in section 53a-54c, (D) arson murder, as provided in section  
301 53a-54d, (E) murder, as provided in section 53a-54a, or (F) aggravated  
302 sexual assault in the first degree, as provided in section 53a-70a. (2) A  
303 person convicted of (A) a violation of section 53a-100aa or 53a-102, or  
304 (B) an offense, other than an offense specified in subdivision (1) of this  
305 subsection, where the underlying facts and circumstances of the offense  
306 involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force  
307 against another person shall be ineligible for parole under subsection (a)  
308 of this section until such person has served not less than eighty-five per  
309 cent of the definite sentence imposed.

310 (c) The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall, not later than July 1, 1996,  
311 adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to ensure that a person  
312 convicted of an offense described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of

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313 this section is not released on parole until such person has served eighty-  
314 five per cent of the definite sentence imposed by the court. Such  
315 regulations shall include guidelines and procedures for classifying a  
316 person as a violent offender that are not limited to a consideration of the  
317 elements of the offense or offenses for which such person was convicted.

318 (d) The Board of Pardons and Paroles may hold a hearing to  
319 determine the suitability for parole release of any person whose  
320 eligibility for parole release is not subject to the provisions of subsection  
321 (b) of this section upon completion by such person of seventy-five per  
322 cent of such person's definite or total effective sentence less any risk  
323 reduction credit earned under the provisions of section 18-98e. An  
324 employee of the board or, if deemed necessary by the chairperson, a  
325 panel of the board shall assess the suitability for parole release of such  
326 person based on the following standards: (1) Whether there is  
327 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
328 without violating the law, and (2) whether the benefits to such person  
329 and society that would result from such person's release to community  
330 supervision substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and  
331 society that would result from such person's continued incarceration.  
332 The board shall give substantial weight to any evidence that (A) such  
333 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
334 trafficking in persons, as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
335 amended by this act, and (B) their experiences of domestic violence,  
336 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant  
337 contributing factor to the commission of the offense. If a hearing is held,  
338 and if the board determines that continued confinement is necessary,  
339 the board shall articulate for the record the specific reasons why such  
340 person and the public would not benefit from such person serving a  
341 period of parole supervision while transitioning from incarceration to  
342 the community. If a hearing is not held, the board shall document the  
343 specific reasons for not holding a hearing and provide such reasons to  
344 such person. No person shall be released on parole without receiving a  
345 hearing. The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be  
346 subject to appeal.

347 (e) The Board of Pardons and Paroles may hold a hearing to  
348 determine the suitability for parole release of any person whose  
349 eligibility for parole release is subject to the provisions of subdivision  
350 (2) of subsection (b) of this section upon completion by such person of  
351 eighty-five per cent of such person's definite or total effective sentence.  
352 An employee of the board or, if deemed necessary by the chairperson, a  
353 panel of the board shall assess the suitability for parole release of such  
354 person based on the following standards: (1) Whether there is a  
355 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
356 without violating the law, and (2) whether the benefits to such person  
357 and society that would result from such person's release to community  
358 supervision substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and  
359 society that would result from such person's continued incarceration.  
360 The board shall give substantial weight to any evidence that (A) such  
361 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
362 trafficking in persons, as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
363 amended by this act, and (B) their experiences of domestic violence,  
364 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant  
365 contributing factor to the commission of the offense. If a hearing is held,  
366 and if the board determines that continued confinement is necessary,  
367 the board shall articulate for the record the specific reasons why such  
368 person and the public would not benefit from such person serving a  
369 period of parole supervision while transitioning from incarceration to  
370 the community. No hearing pursuant to the provisions of this  
371 subsection may proceed unless the parole release panel is in possession  
372 of the complete file for such applicant, including any documentation  
373 from the Department of Correction, the trial transcript, the sentencing  
374 record and any file of any previous parole hearing. Each member of the  
375 panel shall certify that all such documentation has been reviewed in  
376 preparation for such hearing. If a hearing is not held, the board shall  
377 document the specific reasons for not holding a hearing and provide  
378 such reasons to such person. No person shall be released on parole  
379 without receiving a hearing. The decision of the board under this  
380 subsection shall not be subject to appeal.

381 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (e),

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382 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
383 committed while such person was under eighteen years of age, who is  
384 incarcerated on or after October 1, 2015, and who received a definite  
385 sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten years for such crime  
386 or crimes prior to, on or after October 1, 2015, may be allowed to go at  
387 large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the Board of Pardons  
388 and Paroles for the institution in which such person is confined,  
389 provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty years or less,  
390 such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty per cent of the  
391 sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such person is  
392 serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person shall be eligible  
393 for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this subsection shall  
394 limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the provisions of  
395 subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section if such person would be  
396 eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any of such provisions.

397 (2) The board shall apply the parole eligibility rules of this subsection  
398 only with respect to the sentence for a crime or crimes committed while  
399 a person was under eighteen years of age. Any portion of a sentence that  
400 is based on a crime or crimes committed while a person was eighteen  
401 years of age or older shall be subject to the applicable parole eligibility,  
402 suitability and release rules set forth in subsections (a) to (e), inclusive,  
403 of this section.

404 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
405 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
406 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
407 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
408 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
409 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
410 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such  
411 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
412 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
413 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
414 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
415 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement

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416 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
417 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of  
418 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a. The  
419 board may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
420 relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of Correction or  
421 other persons, as the board may require. The board shall use validated  
422 risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-based  
423 structured decision making and release criteria established pursuant to  
424 subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a determination pursuant to  
425 this subsection.

426 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at large  
427 on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was based on a  
428 crime or crimes committed while such person was under eighteen years  
429 of age if the board finds that such parole release would be consistent  
430 with the factors set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of  
431 subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears, from all available  
432 information, including, but not limited to, any reports from the  
433 Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a reasonable probability  
434 that such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the  
435 law, (B) the benefits to such person and society that would result from  
436 such person's release to community supervision substantially outweigh  
437 the benefits to such person and society that would result from such  
438 person's continued incarceration, and (C) such person has demonstrated  
439 substantial rehabilitation since the date such crime or crimes were  
440 committed considering such person's character, background and  
441 history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but not limited to, such  
442 person's correctional record, the age and circumstances of such person  
443 as of the date of the commission of the crime or crimes, whether (A) such  
444 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
445 trafficking in persons, as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
446 amended by this act, and (B) their experiences of domestic violence,  
447 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant  
448 contributing factor to the commission of the offense, whether such  
449 person has demonstrated remorse and increased maturity since the date  
450 of the commission of the crime or crimes, such person's contributions to

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451 the welfare of other persons through service, such person's efforts to  
452 overcome substance abuse, addiction, trauma, lack of education or  
453 obstacles that such person may have faced as a child or youth in the  
454 adult correctional system, the opportunities for rehabilitation in the  
455 adult correctional system, whether the person has also applied for or  
456 received a sentence modification and the overall degree of such person's  
457 rehabilitation considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or  
458 crimes.

459 (5) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
460 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that  
461 continued confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such  
462 person's suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date to be  
463 determined at the discretion of the board, but not earlier than two years  
464 after the date of its decision.

465 (6) The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be subject  
466 to appeal.

467 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (f),  
468 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
469 committed while such person was under twenty-one years of age, who  
470 was sentenced on or before October 1, 2005, and who received a definite  
471 sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten years' incarceration  
472 for such crime or crimes committed on or before October 1, 2005, may  
473 be allowed to go at large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the  
474 Board of Pardons and Paroles for the institution in which such person is  
475 confined, provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty years  
476 or less, such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty per  
477 cent of the sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if such  
478 person is serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person shall  
479 be eligible for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this  
480 subsection shall limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the  
481 provisions of subsections (a) to (f), inclusive, of this section if such  
482 person would be eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any  
483 of such provisions.



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484 (2) The board shall apply the parole eligibility rules of this subsection  
485 only with respect to the sentence for a crime or crimes committed while  
486 a person was under twenty-one years of age. Any portion of a sentence  
487 that is based on a crime or crimes committed while a person was twenty-  
488 one years of age or older shall be subject to the applicable parole  
489 eligibility, suitability and release rules set forth in subsections (a) to (e),  
490 inclusive, of this section.

491 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
492 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
493 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
494 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
495 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
496 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
497 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such  
498 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
499 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
500 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
501 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
502 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement  
503 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
504 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of  
505 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a. The  
506 board may request testimony from mental health professionals or other  
507 relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of Correction or  
508 other persons, as the board may require. The board shall use validated  
509 risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-based  
510 structured decision making and release criteria established pursuant to  
511 subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a determination pursuant to  
512 this subsection.

513 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at large  
514 on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was based on a  
515 crime or crimes committed while such person was under twenty-one  
516 years of age, if the board finds that such parole release would be  
517 consistent with the factors set forth in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive,

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518 of subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears, from all available  
519 information, including, but not limited to, any reports from the  
520 Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a reasonable probability  
521 that such person will live and remain at liberty without violating the  
522 law, (B) the benefits to such person and society that would result from  
523 such person's release to community supervision substantially outweigh  
524 the benefits to such person and society that would result from such  
525 person's continued incarceration, and (C) such person has demonstrated  
526 substantial rehabilitation since the date such crime or crimes were  
527 committed considering such person's character, background and  
528 history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but not limited to, such  
529 person's correctional record, the age and circumstances of such person  
530 as of the date of the commission of the crime or crimes, whether (A) such  
531 person is a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or  
532 trafficking in persons, as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as  
533 amended by this act, and (B) their experiences of domestic violence,  
534 sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons were a significant  
535 contributing factor to the commission of the offense, whether such  
536 person has demonstrated remorse and increased maturity since the date  
537 of the commission of the crime or crimes, such person's contributions to  
538 the welfare of other persons through service, such person's efforts to  
539 overcome substance abuse, addiction, trauma, lack of education or  
540 obstacles that such person may have faced as a person who was under  
541 twenty-one years of age in the adult correctional system, the  
542 opportunities for rehabilitation in the adult correctional system,  
543 whether the person has also applied for or received a sentence  
544 modification and the overall degree of such person's rehabilitation  
545 considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or crimes.

546 (5) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
547 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that  
548 continued confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such  
549 person's suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date to be  
550 determined at the discretion of the board, but not earlier than two years  
551 after the date of its decision.

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552 (6) The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be subject  
553 to appeal.

554 (h) Any person released on parole under this section shall remain in  
555 the custody of the Commissioner of Correction and be subject to  
556 supervision by personnel of the Department of Correction during such  
557 person's period of parole.

558 Sec. 4. Section 54-130a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
559 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2027*):

560 (a) Jurisdiction over the granting of, and the authority to grant,  
561 commutations of punishment or releases, conditioned or absolute, in the  
562 case of any person convicted of any offense against the state and  
563 commutations from the penalty of death shall be vested in the Board of  
564 Pardons and Paroles.

565 (b) The board shall have authority to grant pardons, conditioned,  
566 provisional or absolute, or certificates of rehabilitation for any offense  
567 against the state at any time after the imposition and before or after the  
568 service of any sentence.

569 (c) The board may accept an application for a pardon three years after  
570 an applicant's conviction of a misdemeanor or violation and five years  
571 after an applicant's conviction of a felony, except that the board, upon a  
572 finding of extraordinary circumstances, may accept an application for a  
573 pardon prior to such dates.

574 (d) Prior to holding a session to consider whether to grant any  
575 commutation of punishment, release or pardon in the case of any person  
576 convicted of any offense against the state, the board shall, upon written  
577 request, provide the state's attorney for the jurisdictional district in  
578 which any conviction for such offense was obtained with a copy of the  
579 convicted person's application, any materials and documentation filed  
580 in support thereof, except for any information contained in the  
581 application, materials and documentation that are confidential,  
582 privileged and nondisclosable pursuant to state or federal law, any

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583 information obtained by the board about the convicted person pursuant  
584 to section 54-130c, and shall permit such state's attorney, or such state's  
585 attorney's designee, to appear at such session for the purpose of making  
586 a statement for the record concerning whether the convicted person  
587 should be granted any such commutation of punishment, release or  
588 pardon.

589 (e) When reviewing an application for a pardon, the board shall give  
590 substantial weight to any evidence that (A) the applicant is a survivor  
591 of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or trafficking in persons,  
592 as defined in subsection (b) of section 53a-35a, as amended by this act,  
593 and (B) their experiences of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking  
594 or trafficking in persons were a significant contributing factor to the  
595 commission of the offense for which the applicant is seeking a pardon.

596 ~~[(e)]~~(f) Whenever the board grants an absolute pardon to any person,  
597 the board shall cause notification of such pardon to be made in writing  
598 to the clerk of the court in which such person was convicted, or the  
599 Office of the Chief Court Administrator if such person was convicted in  
600 the Court of Common Pleas, the Circuit Court, a municipal court, or a  
601 trial justice court.

602 ~~[(f)]~~(g) Whenever the board grants a provisional pardon or a  
603 certificate of rehabilitation to any person, the board shall cause  
604 notification of such provisional pardon or certificate of rehabilitation to  
605 be made in writing to the clerk of the court in which such person was  
606 convicted. The granting of a provisional pardon or a certificate of  
607 rehabilitation does not entitle such person to erasure of the record of the  
608 conviction of the offense or relieve such person from disclosing the  
609 existence of such conviction as may be required.

610 ~~[(g)]~~(h) In the case of any person convicted of a violation for which a  
611 sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, the board shall  
612 have authority to grant a pardon, conditioned, provisional or absolute,  
613 or a certificate of rehabilitation in the same manner as in the case of any  
614 person convicted of an offense against the state.

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615       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) Not later than January 15,  
616 2028, and annually thereafter, the Judicial Branch shall report on its  
617 Internet web site information from the previous calendar year relevant  
618 to sentencing relief provided on the basis that domestic violence,  
619 stalking or trafficking in persons was found to be related to the  
620 commission of a defendant's offense, including, but not limited to, (1)  
621 the number of defendants in each judicial district who were granted a  
622 lesser sentence pursuant to subsection (b) of section 53a-35a of the  
623 general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) the number of defendants  
624 in each judicial district who applied for sentencing modification  
625 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 53a-39 of the general statutes, as  
626 amended by this act, (3) the number of defendants granted sentencing  
627 modification pursuant to subsection (g) of section 53a-39 of the general  
628 statutes, as amended by this act, (4) the sentence requested by the state's  
629 attorney at sentencing, if applicable, (5) the sentence imposed, (6) the  
630 judicial district in which the defendant was prosecuted, (7) the race and  
631 ethnicity of the defendant, and (8) the gender identity of the defendant.