



***Office of Chief Public Defender
State of Connecticut***

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House Bill No.1024

An Act Establishing a Task Force to Evaluate Criminal Statutes of Limitations

**Judiciary Committee
March 20, 2017**

While it has concerns, the Office of Chief Public Defender supports Bill No 1024, *An Act Establishing a Task Force to Evaluate Criminal Statutes of Limitations*, which would create a Task Force to study the statutes of limitations in certain offenses. The Office of Chief Public Defender believes that the establishment of such a task force would provide information and enlighten the members of the task force as to the dangers of eliminating such, as well as any benefits, and thanks the Committee for including this agency on the Task Force.

As in the past, the Office of Chief Public Defender is concerned that the rights of the defendant to notice, due process and a fair trial not be violated. The Office of Chief Public Defender has previously expressed its concerns that without a limitation period, evidence may be unable to be located, destroyed or may deteriorate. Lastly, any legislative enactment eliminating such should be limited prospectively and not retroactive.