



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

30 TRINITY STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
TEL (860)509-6429  
FAX (860)509-6499  
susan.storey@jud.ct.gov

ATTORNEY SUSAN O. STOREY  
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of  
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director**

**Committee on Judiciary  
Public Hearing - March 6, 2017**

**Bill 7214  
An Act Concerning Harassment of a Guide or Assistance Dog  
or the Handler of Such Dog**

While not taking a position on the bill, the Office of Chief Public Defender suggests that the word "intentionally" be added at line 50 before the word "interferes". The insertion of this word would clarify that a person is guilty of violating this statute if the person does so intentionally or knowingly. Most criminal offenses require proof of the person's mens rea at the time of the conduct. There are offenses which may also be classified as criminally negligent reckless. Without the word "intentional" a person who inadvertently interferes with the use of a guide or assistance dog may find themselves the subject of an arrest at risk of incarceration, probation and fines, since this offense is classified as a C misdemeanor.