



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director

Committee on Judiciary - Public Hearing March 9, 2018

Raised Bill 239 - An Act Concerning Global Positioning System Monitoring of Convicted Persons Awaiting Sentencing for Aggravated Sexual Assault

Raised Bill 5249 - An Act Concerning GPS Monitoring of Convicted Persons Awaiting Sentencing for Aggravated Sexual Assault

The Office of Chief Public Defender has a concern in regard to Raised Bills 239 and 5249. The language of both bills appears to be identical to each other. The concern is that by requiring as a condition of release that any person so convicted be electronically monitored by a global positioning system device (GPS) prior to sentencing, the bill may have a disproportionate impact upon an indigent person. If the person is unable to afford the GPS monitoring costs, in addition to posting any imposed bond, the person may remain incarcerated whereas a person possessing greater financial resources will be allowed to be released and remain free prior to sentencing.

The Office of Chief Public Defender requests that language be inserted at the end of line 35 which would grant discretion to the court to waive the costs of the electronic monitoring by GPS for any person determined indigent by the court when imposing such as a condition of release. The proposed language is underlined below:

35 53a-70c. The court may, in its discretion, waive any costs for such electronic monitoring
36 if it determines that the person so convicted is indigent.