



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director

Committee on Government Administration and Elections - Public Hearing March 5, 2018

Raised Bill 256, An Act Concerning Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports *Raised Bill 256, An Act Concerning Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements*. As drafted the bill requires a racial and ethnic impact statement to be automatically created prior to the adoption of any criminal justice legislation. Current law provides for such statements if legislation is passed that would increase or decrease the pretrial or sentenced inmate population in the state. This proposal would require the preparation of such a statement at the request of a General Assembly member. The preparation of the statements could provide valuable information as to how legislation impacts upon communities of color and identify any unintentional impact should the legislation be adopted. Therefore, the Office of Chief Public Defender requests that the Committee vote favorably on this proposal.