

# Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-266

AN ACT CONCERNING A REGISTRY OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF

**Title:** FINANCIAL CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS.

**Vote Date:** 3/10/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Change of Reference to Judiciary

**PH Date:** 3/8/2022

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Aging Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill would require establishing a registry of persons convicted of financial crimes against elderly persons, in order to protect elderly citizens against fraud.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Ms. Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel, Office of Public Defender**

**Services:** They request that this Committee take no action on this proposal. Their office opposes efforts to create such a registry as they have not been proven to reduce recidivism. The creation of registries which publicly disclose convictions create collateral consequences for the offenders. The registry is a collection of names and addresses of persons based upon convictions of certain statutes and do not provide any of the case circumstances.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Ms. Christy Kovel, Director of Public Policy, Alzheimer's Assoc., CT Chapter:** Their comments are in support of this bill. Persons with Alzheimer's is at an increased risk for abuse or neglect. They have problems managing their money and they are often at an increased risk for abuse that includes financial exploitation from unscrupulous people. Their association supports increased transparency with a registry regarding persons who have committed a crime against older adults. This will help provide necessary safeguards for families who may be hiring in-home caregivers.

**Mr. William Lenahan, Fairfield Senior Advocates:** They offered testimony in support of this legislation and the establishment of a registry. They suggest the registry should be available to the public on the web site of the Commission for Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity and listed within the Registry Repository. They also believe that the Dept of Public Health should also create a criminal listing and patient abuse background search program. They also think that long term care facilities conduct background searches on all employees and volunteers.

**Regina Stankatitis, Volunteer, AARP CT:** She submitted testimony in support of this proposal and offered her own story about experiences with abuse, physical and financial that she had experienced. She believes that state needs to protect seniors and the disabled and that passing this bill would help.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**David Godbout, Constituent:** He expressed opposition to all bills put forward by the committee under the claim of nullification.

**Reported by:**

**Date: 3/16/22**

**Cameron Clarke, Committee Clerk  
Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk**