



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 125**

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5210

*House of Representatives, March 26, 2024*

The Committee on Aging reported through REP. GARIBAY of the 60th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELDER JUSTICE UNIT IN THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 51-279 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2024*):

4 (a) The Chief State's Attorney, with the advice of the Division of  
5 Criminal Justice Advisory Board under section 51-279a, shall  
6 administer, direct, supervise, coordinate and control the operations,  
7 activities and programs of the division as it shall apply to the Superior  
8 Court. [He] The Chief State's Attorney shall: (1) Establish such bureaus,  
9 divisions, facilities and offices, including an appellate unit, a  
10 racketeering and continuing criminal activities unit, [and] a bond  
11 forfeiture unit and an elder justice unit, and select such professional,  
12 technical and other personnel, including chief inspectors, as [he] the  
13 Chief State's Attorney deems reasonably necessary for the efficient  
14 operation and discharge of the duties of the division, subject to the

15 personnel policies and compensation plan established by the  
16 Department of Administrative Services; (2) adopt and enforce rules and  
17 regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter; (3) establish  
18 guidelines, policies and procedures for the internal operation and  
19 administration of the division which shall be binding on all division  
20 personnel; (4) enter into contracts with consultants and such other  
21 persons as are necessary for the proper functioning of the office; (5)  
22 engage in long-range planning and review policy and legislation  
23 concerning the administration of criminal justice in the state and  
24 recommend needed changes and additions thereto; (6) collect statistical  
25 data concerning administration of criminal justice in the state and  
26 furnish the data to the appropriate committee of the General Assembly;  
27 (7) conduct research and evaluate programs within his office; (8)  
28 establish staff development, training and education programs designed  
29 to improve the quality of the division's services and programs; (9)  
30 coordinate the activities of the division with those of such other state,  
31 municipal, regional, federal and private agencies as are concerned with  
32 the administration of criminal justice; (10) be authorized to receive and  
33 administer funds from the federal government or any charitable  
34 foundation to assist in the operations of the division; (11) supervise,  
35 approve and issue all orders concerning all purchases of commodities,  
36 equipment and services for the Division of Criminal Justice; (12)  
37 supervise the administrative methods and systems employed in the  
38 Division of Criminal Justice; (13) submit to the Department of  
39 Administrative Services for its approval a compensation plan for all  
40 employees of the division, which plan may include sick leave, vacation  
41 leave, absences without pay, longevity payments, increments and all  
42 other matters regarding personnel policies and procedures; (14)  
43 establish with the approval of the Department of Administrative  
44 Services such job classifications as [he] the Chief State's Attorney deems  
45 necessary for the operation of the division; (15) audit bills to be paid  
46 from state appropriations for the expenses of the Division of Criminal  
47 Justice; (16) maintain adequate accounting and budgetary records for all  
48 appropriations by the state for the maintenance of the Division of  
49 Criminal Justice and all other appropriations assigned by the legislature

50 or state budgetary control offices for administration by the Division of  
51 Criminal Justice; (17) serve as payroll officer for the Division of Criminal  
52 Justice; and (18) have such other powers and duties as are reasonably  
53 necessary to administer the division and implement the purposes of this  
54 chapter. [He] The Chief State's Attorney shall prepare and submit to the  
55 Office of Policy and Management estimates of appropriations necessary  
56 for the maintenance of the division and make recommendations with  
57 respect thereto for inclusion as a separate item in the budget request of  
58 the Division of Criminal Justice.

59 Sec. 2. Section 51-279b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

61 (a) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish a racketeering and  
62 continuing criminal activities unit within the Division of Criminal  
63 Justice. Such unit shall be available for the investigation and prosecution  
64 of criminal matters including, but not limited to, the illegal purchase and  
65 sale of controlled substances, criminal activity by gangs, fraud,  
66 corruption, illegal gambling and the recruitment of persons to carry out  
67 such illegal activities.

68 (b) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish a bond forfeiture unit  
69 within the Division of Criminal Justice. Such unit shall be responsible  
70 for the collection, in the name of the state, and by suit when necessary,  
71 of all forfeited bonds payable to the state. Such unit may compromise  
72 and settle forfeited bonds for less than the amount thereof without  
73 regard to the expiration of any stay of forfeiture.

74 (c) The Chief State's Attorney shall develop uniform standards for the  
75 compromise and settlement of forfeited bonds. Such standards shall be  
76 applied on a state-wide basis.

77 (d) The Chief State's Attorney shall establish an elder justice unit  
78 within the Division of Criminal Justice. Such unit shall be available for  
79 the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters that involve  
80 criminal activity against elderly persons.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	51-279(a)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	51-279b

**AGE**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Criminal Justice, Div.	GF - Cost	548,299	684,399
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	234,759	313,013

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which requires the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to establish an elder justice unit, results in a cost of \$548,299 in FY 25 and \$684,399 in FY 26 to DCJ and \$234,759 in FY 25 and \$313,013 in FY 26 to the State Comptroller- Fringe Benefits.

DCJ will need eight new positions to establish an elder justice unit for an estimated cost of \$504,299 in FY 25 and \$672,399<sup>2</sup> for salaries in FY 26. In FY 25, there will be an approximate one-time cost of \$32,000 for office furniture, equipment, and training; an additional annual cost of about \$12,000 in other expenses is needed to support the activities of the new unit.

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

<sup>2</sup>These amounts include the following positions and annual salaries: 2 Deputy Assistant State's Attorneys \$91,000; 5 Inspectors \$81,322; and 1 Forensic Fraud Examiner \$83,789. FY 25's total salary cost is adjusted to reflect partial year implementation.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 5210**

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELDER JUSTICE UNIT IN THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Chief State’s Attorney to establish an elder justice unit within the Division of Criminal Justice. It requires the unit to be able to investigate and prosecute criminal matters involving crimes against elderly persons.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10    Nay 5    (03/12/2024)