



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 5403***

LCO No. 2225



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MILITARY PROTECTION ORDERS AND OTHER INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE PROTECTIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 46b-15a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

3 (a) [For the purposes of this section, "foreign order of protection"] As  
4 used in this section:

5 (1) "Foreign order of protection" means any protection order, as  
6 defined in 18 USC 2266, as from time to time amended, or similar  
7 restraining or protective order issued by a court of another state, the  
8 District of Columbia, a commonwealth, territory or possession of the  
9 United States, [or] an Indian tribe or an appropriate military authority.  
10 "Foreign order of protection" includes a military protection order.

11 (2) "Military protection order" means a protection order issued by a  
12 commanding officer in the armed forces of the United States or the  
13 Connecticut National Guard against a person under such officer's

14 command.

15 (b) A valid foreign order of protection that is consistent with 18 USC  
16 2265, as from time to time amended, shall be accorded full faith and  
17 credit by a court of this state and may be enforced as if it were the order  
18 of a court in this state. A foreign order of protection shall be presumed  
19 valid if such order appears authentic on its face. The fact that a foreign  
20 order of protection has not been entered into the automated registry of  
21 protective orders maintained pursuant to section 51-5c, the Connecticut  
22 on-line law enforcement communication teleprocessing system  
23 maintained by the Department of Emergency Services and Public  
24 Protection or the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)  
25 computerized index of criminal justice information shall not be grounds  
26 for refusing to enforce such order in this state.

27 (c) A law enforcement officer shall enforce a foreign order of  
28 protection in accordance with its terms and the law of this state, and  
29 shall arrest any person suspected of violating such order and charge  
30 such person with a violation of section 53a-223b. Nothing in this  
31 subsection shall affect the responsibility of a law enforcement officer to  
32 make an arrest pursuant to section 46b-38b.

33 (d) It shall be an affirmative defense in any action seeking  
34 enforcement of a foreign order of protection or any criminal prosecution  
35 involving the violation of a foreign order of protection that such order  
36 is not consistent with or entitled to full faith and credit pursuant to 18  
37 USC 2265, as from time to time amended.

38 (e) A child custody provision in a foreign order of protection may be  
39 enforced in this state if such provision (1) complies with the Uniform  
40 Child Custody Jurisdiction Act or the Uniform Child Custody  
41 Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, and (2) is consistent with the Parental  
42 Kidnapping Prevention Act of 1980, 28 USC 1738A, as from time to time  
43 amended.

44 (f) A foreign order of protection may be registered in this state by  
45 sending to the Superior Court in this state: (1) A letter or other document

46 requesting registration; (2) two copies, including one certified copy, of  
47 the foreign order of protection sought to be registered and a statement  
48 under penalty of perjury that, to the best of the knowledge and belief of  
49 the petitioner, the order has not been modified; and (3) the name and  
50 address of the person seeking registration, except if the disclosure of  
51 such name and address would jeopardize the safety of such person.

52 (g) On receipt of the documents required in subsection (f) of this  
53 section, the registering court shall: (1) Cause the foreign order of  
54 protection to be filed as a foreign judgment, together with one copy of  
55 any accompanying documents and information, regardless of their  
56 form; and (2) cause the foreign order of protection to be entered in the  
57 automated registry of protective orders maintained pursuant to section  
58 51-5c, together with any accompanying information required or  
59 permitted to be contained in the registry of protective orders pursuant  
60 to the procedures adopted by the Chief Court Administrator under  
61 section 51-5c.

62 Sec. 2. Section 53a-183 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
63 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

64 (a) A person is guilty of harassment in the second degree when with  
65 intent to harass, terrorize or alarm another person, and for no legitimate  
66 purpose, such person: (1) (A) Communicates with a person by telegraph  
67 or mail, electronically transmitting a facsimile through connection with  
68 a telephone network, electronic mail or text message or any other  
69 electronically sent message, whether by digital media account,  
70 messaging program or application, or otherwise by computer, computer  
71 service or computer network, as defined in section 53a-250, or any other  
72 form of communication, in a manner likely to cause terror, intimidation  
73 or alarm; [(2)] (B) makes a telephone call or engages in any other form  
74 of communication, whether or not a conversation ensues, in a manner  
75 likely to cause terror, intimidation or alarm; or [(3)] (C) communicates  
76 or shares a photograph, video or words or engages in any other form of  
77 communication to a digital, electronic, online or other meeting space, in  
78 a manner likely to cause terror, intimidation or alarm; or (2) engages in

79 conduct within one year after having been directed, in writing or  
80 otherwise and while such person was a member of the National Guard,  
81 by a commanding officer not to engage in such conduct, regardless of  
82 whether such person is a member of the National Guard at the time of  
83 engaging in such conduct or where such person engaged in such  
84 conduct.

85 (b) For the purposes of [this section] subdivision (1) of subsection (a)  
86 of this section, such offense may be deemed to have been committed  
87 either at the place where the communication originated or at the place  
88 where it was received.

89 (c) The court may order any person convicted under this section to be  
90 examined by one or more psychiatrists.

91 (d) Harassment in the second degree is a class C misdemeanor.

92 Sec. 3. Section 27-20 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
93 subsection (h) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

94 (NEW) (h) The Adjutant General shall provide financial assistance to  
95 current and former members of the National Guard who, while  
96 members thereof, were the victims of sexual assault or sexual  
97 harassment and who are involved in administrative or Connecticut  
98 Code of Military Justice proceedings related to such sexual assault or  
99 sexual harassment, for the purpose of fully covering the expenses of  
100 travel to and from, and participation in, such proceedings.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	46b-15a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	53a-183
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	27-20(h)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) require state courts to extend full faith and credit to military protection orders, (2) include under the crime of harassment in the second degree certain conduct engaged in by current or former

members of the National Guard, and (3) provide financial assistance to certain victims of sexual assault or sexual harassment for certain costs associated with participating in administrative or court-martial proceedings.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*