

State of Connecticut

Division of Criminal Justice



Legislative Recommendations to the 2024 Session of the General Assembly

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AN ACT CLARIFYING JURISDICTION OF OFFENSES COMMITTED BY MEANS OF TRANSMITTED COMMUNICATIONS

Statement of Purpose:

The following proposed legislation seeks to create jurisdictional uniformity regarding all criminal offenses committed by means of communications transmitted by computer, cellular telephone, or other electronic device via various communication networks, systems, or services. Utilizing the same language recently reapproved in P.A. 23-123 (harmful communications with a minor), the proposed legislation makes clear that any such offenses are “deemed to have been committed either at the place where the communication originated or at the place where it was received.”

This proposal aims to harmonize an existing body of criminal statutes addressing transmitted communications. While several existing statutes contain the same or similar jurisdictional language as set forth above, numerous other existing statutes proscribing conduct committed via communication networks, systems, or services do not contain such jurisdictional provisions. E.g. Section 53a-189b (Disseminating voyeuristic material); Section 53a-189c (Unlawful dissemination of an intimate image). The legislature has demonstrated as recently as P.A. 23-123 that it knows how to specify the location of a crime when it intends to. As a matter of statutory construction, this may lead a court to conclude that, in those statutes lacking specific jurisdictional language, the legislature intended to limit jurisdiction to the location of the perpetrator at the time he or she interacted with the communication network, system, or service, thus potentially depriving our courts of jurisdiction. Interpreting those statutes that lack specific jurisdictional language in this manner may lead to a perpetrator evading prosecution because the location where the communication originated is either unknowable or outside Connecticut, and therefore outside the jurisdiction of Connecticut authorities.

Proposed Legislation:

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

(NEW) (*Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date*) Any offense committed by means of communication transmitted by use of an interactive computer service, as defined in section 53a-90a, computer network, as defined in section 53a-250, telecommunications service, as defined in section 16-247a, cellular system, as used in section 16-50i, electronic communication service, as defined in section 54-260b, or electronic communication system, as defined in 18 USC 2510, including electronic mail or text message or any other electronically sent message, whether by digital media account, messaging program or application, may be deemed to have been committed either at the place where the communication originated or at the place where it was received.

AN ACT CONCERNING STANDING CRIMINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Statement of Purpose:

The following proposed legislation would amend general statutes section 53a-40e, to allow the court to issue a standing criminal protective order in cases in which a defendant is found not guilty by reason of lack of capacity due to mental disease or defect. The proposed amendment would provide a victim of a criminal act whose perpetrator is deemed an “acquittee,” following the successful assertion of such an affirmative defense as provided by General Statutes Section 53a-13, with the same protections afforded a victim whose perpetrator is convicted of the underlying crime.

Proposed Legislation:

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

Subsection (a) of section 53a-40e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) If any person is convicted, or found not guilty by reason of lack of capacity due to mental disease or defect, of (1) a violation of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, [2019] 2023, or subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 53-21, section 53a-59, 53a-59a, 53a-60, 53a-60a, 53a-60b, 53a-60c, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70c, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-73a, 53a-181c, 53a-181d, 53a-181e, 53a-182b or 53a-183, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-192a, section 53a-223, 53a-223a or 53a-223b or attempt or conspiracy to violate any of said sections or section 53a-54a, or (2) any crime that the court determines constitutes a family violence crime, as defined in section 46b-38a, or attempt or conspiracy to commit any such crime, the court may, in addition to imposing the sentence authorized for the crime under section 53a-35a or 53a-36, if the court is of the opinion that the history and character and the nature and circumstances of the criminal conduct of such offender indicate that a standing criminal protective order will best serve the interest of the victim and the public, issue a standing criminal protective order which shall remain in effect for a duration specified by the court until modified or revoked by the court for good cause shown. If any person is convicted, or found not guilty by reason of lack of capacity due to mental disease or defect, of any crime not specified in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, the court may, for good cause shown, issue a standing criminal protective order pursuant to this subsection.

AN ACT PERMITTING COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS IN CASES INVOLVING HATE CRIMES

Statement of Purpose:

The following legislative proposal is presented by the Division of Criminal Justice, in consultation with the Hate Crimes Commission, in recognition of the fact that hate crimes, even when directed toward an individual, also have an impact upon the broader community. The proposal seeks to amend existing statutes governing hate crimes to permit a court, at the time of the perpetrator's sentencing or upon consideration of an application for accelerated rehabilitation, to allow a representative or representatives of a community impacted by the crime a reasonable opportunity to submit a written statement concerning the crime and its effect on the impacted community. The proposal is set out in seven distinct sections, as the proposal affects the following sections of the general statutes: (1) § 46a-58; (2) § 53-37a; (3) § 53a-40a; (4) § 53a-181j; (5) § 53a-181k; (6) § 53a-181l; and (7) § 54-56e.

Proposed Legislation:

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

Section 1. Section 46a-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date*):

(a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section for any person to subject, or cause to be subjected, any other person to the deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities, secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of this state or of the United States, on account of religion, national origin, alienage, color, race, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, blindness, mental disability, physical disability, age, status as a veteran or status as a victim of domestic violence.

(b) Any person who intentionally desecrates any public property, monument or structure, or any religious object, symbol or house of religious worship, or any cemetery, or any private structure not owned by such person, shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this section. For the purposes of this subsection, "desecrate" means to mar, deface or damage as a demonstration of irreverence or contempt.

(c) Any person who places a burning cross or a simulation thereof on any public property, or on any private property without the written consent of the owner, and with intent to intimidate or harass any other person or group of persons, shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this section.

(d) Any person who places a noose or a simulation thereof on any public property, or on any private property without the written consent of the owner, and with intent to

intimidate or harass any other person on account of religion, national origin, alienage, color, race, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, blindness, mental disability, physical disability, age, status as a veteran or status as a victim of domestic violence, shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this section.

(e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars, except that if property is damaged as a consequence of such violation in an amount in excess of one thousand dollars, such person shall be guilty of a class D felony and shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section by intentionally desecrating a house of religious worship (A) shall be guilty of a class D felony and shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars if property is damaged as a consequence of such violation in an amount up to and including ten thousand dollars, and (B) shall be guilty of a class C felony and shall be fined not less than three thousand dollars if the property damaged as a consequence of such violation is in an amount in excess of ten thousand dollars.

(3) The minimum amount of any fine imposed by the provisions of this section may not be remitted or reduced by the court unless the court states on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

(4) The court may order restitution for any victim of a violation of this section pursuant to subsection (c) of section 53a-28.

(5) At any sentencing hearing for a violation of this section, prior to imposition of sentence, the court may consider a written statement submitted by a representative or representatives of a community impacted by the crime concerning the crime and its effect on the impacted community.

Section 2. Section 53-37a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date*):

(a) Any person who, with the intent to subject, or cause to be subjected, any other person to the deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities, secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of this state or of the United States, on account of religion, national origin, alienage, color, race, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, blindness or physical disability, violates the provisions of section 46a-58 while wearing a mask, hood or other device designed to conceal the identity of such person shall be guilty of a class D felony.

(b) At any sentencing hearing for a violation of this section, prior to imposition of sentence, the court may consider a written statement submitted by a representative or

representatives of a community impacted by the crime concerning the crime and its effect on the impacted community.

Section 3. Section 53a-40a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date*):

(a) A persistent offender of crimes involving bigotry or bias is a person who (1) stands convicted of a violation of section 46a-58, 53-37a, 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l, and (2) has been, prior to the commission of the present crime, convicted of a violation of section 46a-58, 53-37a, 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l or section 53a-181b in effect prior to October 1, 2000.

(b) When any person has been found to be a persistent offender of crimes involving bigotry or bias, the court shall: (1) In lieu of imposing the sentence authorized for the crime under section 53a-35a if the crime is a felony, impose the sentence of imprisonment authorized by said section for the next more serious degree of felony, or (2) in lieu of imposing the sentence authorized for the crime under section 53a-36 if the crime is a misdemeanor, impose the sentence of imprisonment authorized by said section for the next more serious degree of misdemeanor, except that if the crime is a class A misdemeanor the court shall impose the sentence of imprisonment for a class D felony as authorized by section 53a-35a.

(c) At any sentencing hearing for any person found to be a persistent offender of crimes involving bigotry or bias, prior to imposition of sentence, the court may consider a written statement submitted by a representative or representatives of a community impacted by the crime concerning the crime and its effect on the impacted community.

Section 4. Section 53a-181j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date*):

(a) A person is guilty of intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the first degree when such person maliciously, and with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of such other person, causes physical injury to such other person or to a third person.

(b) Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the first degree is a class C felony, for which three thousand dollars of the fine imposed may not be remitted or reduced by the court unless the court states on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

(c) At any sentencing hearing for a violation of this section, prior to imposition of sentence, the court may consider a written statement submitted by a representative or representatives of a community impacted by the crime concerning the crime and its effect on the impacted community.

Section 5. Section 53a-181k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date*):

(a) A person is guilty of intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the second degree when such person maliciously, and with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person or group of persons motivated in whole or in substantial part by the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of such other person or group of persons, does any of the following: (1) Causes physical contact with such other person or group of persons, (2) damages, destroys or defaces any real or personal property of such other person or group of persons, or (3) threatens, by word or act, to do an act described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, if there is reasonable cause to believe that an act described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection will occur.

(b) Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the second degree is a class D felony, for which one thousand dollars of the fine imposed may not be remitted or reduced by the court unless the court states on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

(c) At any sentencing hearing for a violation of this section, prior to imposition of sentence, the court may consider a written statement submitted by a representative or representatives of a community impacted by the crime concerning the crime and its effect on the impacted community.

Section 6. Section 53a-181l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date*):

(a) A person is guilty of intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the third degree when such person, with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person or group of persons motivated in whole or in substantial part by the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of such other person or persons: (1) Damages, destroys or defaces any real or personal property, or (2) threatens, by word or act, to do an act described in subdivision (1) of this subsection or advocates or urges another person to do an act described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, if there is reasonable cause to believe that an act described in said subdivision will occur.

(b) Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the third degree is a class E felony, for which one thousand dollars of the fine imposed may not be remitted or reduced by the court unless the court states on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

(c) At any sentencing hearing for a violation of this section, prior to imposition of sentence, the court may consider a written statement submitted by a representative or representatives of a community impacted by the crime concerning the crime and its effect on the impacted community.

Section 7. Subsection (b) of section 54-56e of the general statutes (accelerated pretrial rehabilitation) is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage and applicable to any offense committed prior to, on or after said date*):

(b) The court may, in its discretion, invoke such program on motion of the defendant or on motion of a state's attorney or prosecuting attorney with respect to a defendant (1) who, the court believes, will probably not offend in the future, (2) who has no previous record of conviction of a crime or of a violation of section 14-196, subsection (c) of section 14-215, section 14-222a, subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 14-224, section 14-227a or 14-227m, subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n or section 15-132a, 15-133 or 15-140n, and (3) who states under oath, in open court or before any person designated by the clerk and duly authorized to administer oaths, under the penalties of perjury, (A) that the defendant has never had such program invoked on the defendant's behalf or that the defendant was charged with a misdemeanor or a motor vehicle violation for which a term of imprisonment of one year or less may be imposed and ten or more years have passed since the date that any charge or charges for which the program was invoked on the defendant's behalf were dismissed by the court, or (B) with respect to a defendant who is a veteran, that the defendant has not had such program invoked in the defendant's behalf more than once previously, provided the defendant shall agree thereto and provided notice has been given by the defendant, on a form prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, to the victim or victims of such crime or motor vehicle violation, if any, by registered or certified mail and such victim or victims have an opportunity to be heard thereon. If the defendant is charged with a violation of section 46a-58, 53-37a, 53a-181j, 53a-181k, or 53a-181l, the court may consider a written statement submitted by a representative or representatives of a community impacted by the crime concerning the crime and its effect on the impacted community. Any defendant who applies for participation in such program shall pay to the court an application fee of thirty-five dollars, except as provided in subsection (g) of this section. No defendant shall be allowed to participate in the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation more than two times. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103.

AN ACT CONCERNING NONRESIDENT LANDLORD REGISTRATION AND ADDRESSING PENALTIES FOR REPEAT BUILDING AND FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS

Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of Section 1 of this proposed legislation is to enhance state and municipal health and safety code enforcement by mandating that larger municipalities require nonresident landlords of rental properties register personal identifying information, including name, date of birth, and actual residential address, with these municipalities. The proposal is intended to address an ongoing problem faced by code enforcement and housing prosecution authorities in properly identifying and initiating criminal action via warrant against nonresident landlords who are in violation of building, housing, and fire codes. While existing law provides that any municipality “may require” such reporting to the tax assessor, or other municipal office designated by the municipality, this proposed amendment seeks to amend section 47a-6a of the general statutes to mandate larger municipalities (those with populations exceeding 25,000) *require* a nonresident owner, project-based housing provider, or agent in charge to register an actual residential address and provide proof of identification information by way of governmental identification to the municipality. Section 2 proposes that compliance with any such landlord registration be added to the specific list of landlord responsibilities imposed by existing general statutes section 47a-7.

Sections 3 through 5 of this proposed legislation seek to establish increased penalties for repeat violations of building and fire codes (sections 29-254a, 29-291c, and 29-394).

Proposed Legislation:

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

Section 1. Section 47a-6a of the general statutes, as amended by P.A. 23-207 Sec. 16, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) As used in this section, (1) "address" means a location as described by the full street number, if any, the street name, the city or town, and the state, and not a mailing address such as a post office box, (2) "dwelling unit" means any house or building, or portion thereof, which is rented, leased or hired out to be occupied, or is arranged or designed to be occupied, or is occupied, as the home or residence of one or more persons, living independently of each other, and doing their cooking upon the premises, and having a common right in the halls, stairways or yards, (3) "agent in charge" or "agent" means one who manages real estate, including, but not limited to, the collection of rents [and], supervision, and maintenance of such rental real property for compliance with state and local codes concerning such real property, (4) "controlling participant" means an individual that exercises day-to-day financial or operational control, [and] (5) "project-based housing provider" means a property owner who contracts with the United States

Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing to tenants under the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program, 42 USC 1437f(o)[.], and (6) “verification of identifying information and current residential address” means proof of an individual's name, date of birth, current residential address, and motor vehicle operator's license number or other government issued identification number issued by any government agency or entity.

(b) Any municipality may require the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider of occupied or vacant rental real property to report to the tax assessor, or other municipal office designated by the municipality, the current residential address of the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider of such property, if the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider is an individual, or the current residential address of the agent in charge of the building, if the nonresident owner or project-based housing provider is a corporation, partnership, trust or other legally recognized entity owning rental real property in the state. If the nonresident owners or project-based housing providers are a corporation, partnership, trust or other legally recognized entity owning rental real property in the state, such report shall also include identifying information and the current residential address of each controlling participant associated with the property. If such residential address changes, notice of the new residential address shall be provided by such nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent in charge of the building to the office of the tax assessor or other designated municipal office not more than twenty-one days after the date that the address change occurred. If the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent fails to file an address under this section, the address to which the municipality mails property tax bills for the rental real property shall be deemed to be the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent's current address. Such address may be used for compliance with the provisions of subsection [(c)] (d) of this section.

(c) The requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall be mandatory for any town, city, or borough with a population of twenty-five thousand or more, as determined by the most recent decennial census. Any municipality so covered by this subsection shall require the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider, or agent in charge to provide verification of identifying information and current residential address, which shall be maintained on file within the office of the tax assessor, or other municipal office designated by the municipality to accept and record such information.

[(c)] (d) Service of state or municipal orders relating to maintenance of such rental real property or compliance with state law and local codes concerning such real property directed to the nonresident owner, project-based housing provider or agent at the address on file, or deemed to be on file in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall be sufficient proof of service of notice of such orders in any subsequent criminal or civil action against the owner, project-based housing provider or agent for failure to comply with the orders. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the validity of any other means of giving notice of such orders that may be used by the state or such municipality.

[(d)] (e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall have committed [an infraction] a violation.

[(e)] (f) Any report provided to a tax assessor pursuant to subsections (b) or (c) of this section on or after October 1, 2023, shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed under chapter 14.

Section 2. Subsection (a) of section 47a-7 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) A landlord shall: (1) Comply with the requirements of chapter 368o and all applicable building and housing codes materially affecting health and safety of both the state or any political subdivision thereof; (2) make all repairs and do whatever is necessary to put and keep the premises in a fit and habitable condition, except where the premises are intentionally rendered unfit or uninhabitable by the tenant, a member of his family or other person on the premises with his consent, in which case such duty shall be the responsibility of the tenant; (3) keep all common areas of the premises in a clean and safe condition; (4) maintain in good and safe working order and condition all electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, ventilating and other facilities and appliances and elevators, supplied or required to be supplied by him; (5) provide and maintain appropriate receptacles for the removal of ashes, garbage, rubbish and other waste incidental to the occupancy of the dwelling unit and arrange for their removal; [and] (6) supply running water and reasonable amounts of hot water at all times and reasonable heat except if the building which includes the dwelling unit is not required by law to be equipped for that purpose or if the dwelling unit is so constructed that heat or hot water is generated by an installation within the exclusive control of the tenant or supplied by a direct public utility connection[.], and (7) comply with the requirements of section 47a-6a as amended by this act.

Section 3. Section 29-254a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

Any person who violates any provision of the State Building Code shall, for a first offense, be fined not less than two hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both[.], and, for any subsequent offense, be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or be both fined and imprisoned.

Section 4. Section 29-291c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

(a) When the State Fire Marshal or a local fire marshal ascertains that there exists in any building, or upon any premises, a condition that violates the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code, the State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal shall order such condition remedied by the owner or occupant of such building or premises. Any such remedy shall be in conformance with all building codes, ordinances, rules and regulations of the

municipality involved. Such owner or occupant shall be subject to the penalties prescribed by subsection (e) of this section and, in addition, may be fined fifty dollars a day for each day's continuance of each violation, to be recovered in a proper action in the name of the state.

(b) Upon failure of an owner or occupant to abate or remedy a violation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section within a reasonable period of time specified by the State Fire Marshal or the local fire marshal, the local fire marshal shall promptly notify, in writing, the prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction in the municipality in which such violation or condition exists of all of the relevant facts. The local fire marshal may request the chief executive officer, any official of the municipality authorized to institute actions on behalf of the municipality in which the hazard exists or the State Fire Marshal, to apply to any court of equitable jurisdiction for an injunction against such owner or occupant for the purpose of closing or restricting from public service or use the place or premises containing the violation or condition until the violation or condition has been remedied, or the State Fire Marshal may apply for such an injunction without such request.

(c) The State Fire Marshal or any local fire marshal empowered to enforce the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code may, as an alternative to issuing an order pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, give the owner or occupant a written citation for any violation of the applicable code. No such citation may be issued if the owner or occupant has been previously issued a citation for the same violation by the State Fire Marshal or the local fire marshal within six months prior to the current violation. Such citation shall contain the name and address, if known, of the owner or occupant, the specific offense charged and the time and place of the violation. The citation shall be signed by the State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal and shall be signed by the owner or occupant in acknowledgment that such citation has been received. The State Fire Marshal or local fire marshal shall, if practicable, deliver a copy of the citation to the owner or occupant at the time and place of the violation or shall use some other reasonable means of notification. Any person who is issued a citation for violation of any provision of the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code in accordance with this subsection shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

(d) If a local fire marshal issues a citation pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the state shall remit to the municipalities in which the violations occurred ninety per cent of the proceeds of the fine and shall remit to the State Treasurer the remaining ten per cent. If the State Fire Marshal issues a citation pursuant to said subsection, the state shall remit to the State Treasurer the entire proceeds of the fine. Each clerk of the Superior Court or the Chief Court Administrator, on or before the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, shall certify to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter under this subsection to each municipality served by the office of the clerk or official.

(e) In addition to the fine prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, any person who violates any provision of the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code shall for a first offense, be fined not less than two hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars

or be imprisoned not more than six months, or both[.], and, for any subsequent offense, be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or be both fined and imprisoned.

Section 5. Section 29-394 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

Any person who, by himself or his agent, fails to comply with the written order of a building inspector for the provision of additional exit facilities in a building, the repair or alteration of a building or the removal of a building or any portion thereof, shall for a first offense, be fined not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both[.], and, for any subsequent offense, be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or be both fined and imprisoned.