

Dear Friends,

The legislature recently enacted a criminal justice reform bill. This legislation was signed by the Governor and became effective upon passage. It passed in response to tragic events in Cheshire that exposed weaknesses in the current criminal justice system and made people question their safety. This mailer provides details of this legislation.

Taken into account were the findings of both the Legislature's Judiciary Committee and the Governor's task force, which was commissioned to examine the state's criminal justice system. The final bill was the result of work that included Democrats, Republicans and the Governor's office. It is an example of how the system should work. Politics had no place in our deliberations; the issue was much too important.

The new law will be monitored carefully in the coming months. If necessary, we will make any needed adjustments in the 2008 legislative session.

If you would like a copy of the legislation in its entirety, or would like to discuss this legislation, please contact my office.



Gerald Fox, III  
State Representative, 146th District

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GERALD FOX, III**



PROUDLY REPRESENTING  
STAMFORD'S 146TH DISTRICT

# WHAT THE NEWLY PASSED LEGISLATION DOES

- creates the new crime of home invasion and increases the penalty for burglary of a dwelling at night by making it 1st degree, instead of 2nd degree, burglary;
- makes home invasion a Class A felony requiring a penalty of 10 to 25 years;
- makes someone convicted of 2nd degree burglary or home invasion ineligible for parole until he or she has served at least 85% of the sentence imposed;
- eliminates a factual finding currently required to trigger enhanced sentencing under state persistent offender laws;
- alters the composition, qualification requirements, and appointment process for the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BOPP); requires a training program for board members and parole officers; prohibits parole hearings from being conducted unless the chairperson has certified that all pertinent information has been obtained or is unavailable; and requires the board to hire at least one psychologist;
- eliminates the parole administrative review procedure;
- updates the crime victim notification law; gives the paroles board discretion to permit family members of living victims to make statements at pardons and paroles board hearings; and directs the Judicial Branch to (a) implement an automated victim notification system that, among other things, can notify interested victims when the court is considering whether to accept a plea bargain, and (b) assign two victim advocates to assist crime victims appearing at BOPP hearings;
- limits the reasons that the Department of Correction (DOC) can grant an inmate a furlough;
- increases the number of reentry, diversionary, and staff-secure sexual offender beds;
- requires the Judicial Branch to post certain arrest warrant information on the Internet;
- requires global positioning system (GPS) monitoring of 300 more parolees;
- changes administrative driver's license suspension periods when the driver's elevated blood alcohol level is determined by evidence provided by a hospital;
- requires probationers who are the subject of arrest warrants or notices to appear to continue to comply with their release conditions;
- expands membership in the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Governing Board, directs that body to hire an executive director and design and implement a state of the art information technology system, and appropriates \$2.25 million for these purposes;
- appropriates money for reentry and diversionary services in Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven;
- by January 1, 2009, directs DOC to provide the BOPP with a secure video connection at each correctional facility for conducting parole hearings by video conference (§ 15); and
- requires DOC, BOPP, and the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) to develop a risk assessment strategy for offenders in DOC custody.

## BILL # 1700 AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

PASSED WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23rd, 2008  
2:41 am

138 voting  
126 voting Yea  
12 voting Nay

**Fox  
voting  
Yea**

