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OneStandardOfJustice.org/Campaign-2026



We Need Your Support

SB509 - AN ACT CONCERNING ADDRESS VERIFICATION REFORMS FOR REGISTRANTS

How You Can Help

Attend the Public Hearing (virtually or in person) and/or present public testimony:

Judiciary Public Hearing - Friday, March 20th at 10am

Materials and Links to Register to Speak or Submit Testimony

A background document on the bill is on the second page. We hope to see you on March 20! However you can support our bill, OSJ extends a heartfelt thank you!

SB509 CGA Page:

https://cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2026&bill_num=509

Register to Speak Here (sign-up by Thursday, March 19 at 3pm):

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OThpXx6BRzCAMpbcn-ZSIw#/registration

Submit Testimony Here (submit NOW or by March 19 at 3pm):

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/CGATestimonySub/CGAtestimonysubmission.aspx?comm_code=JUD

Here is the testimony for last year's bill if you want to see what others have written:

https://cga.ct.gov/asp/CGADisplayTestimonies/CGADisplayTestimony.aspx?bill=SB-01500&doc_year=2025

Speaker order of approved registrants will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the Judiciary committee website on **Wednesday March 19 at 6pm**.

Directions to the LOB (300 Capital Avenue), Hartford and parking:

https://cga.ct.gov/asp/content/accessibility_planning_your_visit.asp

We help with you on your draft if you'd like. Email if you have any questions regarding this bill or testimony.

CindyPrizio@OneStandardOfJustice.org or DavidWasch@OneStandardOfJustice.org Legislative

Testimony guide, including directions to attend or testify virtually:

<https://cga.ct.gov/asp/content/YourVoice.asp>

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Suggested Talking Points for Testimony:

- ★ ***No one*** should receive a 'D' Felony for something that is outside of their control.
- ★ Postal delivery times have changed from 3 business days to 5 business days (*if on time*), too short for the 10 calendar-day deadline in current law.
- ★ There is no accountability from DESPP to ensure the letters they send are received. The letters can be lost, damaged, returned as 'undeliverable' or stolen – a strict liability charge is outrageous.
- ★ DESPP does not have an established policy for managing a lost letter. People on the registry are left guessing how they can avoid a felony —and sometimes don't even know they will be charged.
- ★ Current law is a strict liability felony for late paperwork, harming otherwise law-abiding people on the registry and their families with charges often coming 3, 4 or 5-years after the violation.
- ★ Current law criminalizes homelessness, since the homeless (even in shelters) do not have a permanent address where they can receive the letter.
- ★ Convictions have doubled to 300/yr since 2018, reflecting the changes in postal delivery policies. The arrests burden the courts.
- ★ Even when dismissed, these cases take up to two years to resolve. Families face steep bonding fees or their loved ones in jail pre-arraignment, risking the loss of precious jobs and housing.
- ★ New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts all have affirmative defenses for a late letter. Connecticut is the only state among our neighbors without a defense.
- ★ The statute changed in 2023 to allow for letters to be returned by email. BUT clear directions have never been provided and many on the registry are restricted from using email.
- ★ The proposed changes will only increase compliance, increasing public safety.

Vote Yes For SB 509

AAC Address Verification Reforms for Registrants

Every 3 months a letter must be returned within 10 days;
ONE day late is a felony

It Doesn't Matter if...

The post office lost your mail

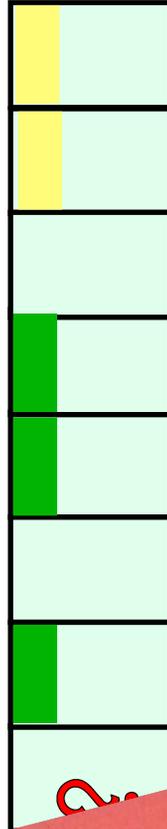
You are homeless

You are in the hospital

There's a family emergency

Dept. of Public Safety lost it

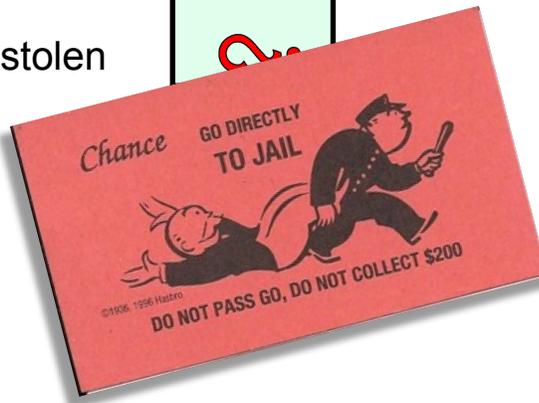
Your mail has been stolen



"I was issued a Notice of Violation for failure to return verification letter-- for a letter that was confirmed as being delivered! to Public Safety" - PD

"I moved two times within three months. I emailed and called Public Safety about each change in address. My efforts didn't matter ... I was arrested on my way to work, had to post bail and lost my job" - DL

"It was very difficult to accept a felony charge for a crime that I had absolutely no control over and did everything that was required of me to comply." - RH



Stopping the Cycle of Sexual Harm Isn't a Game

- Stability reduces recidivism for all returning populations
- Clogging criminal courts with paperwork crimes doesn't help anyone
- Convictions with no possible defense have no place in Connecticut!



Compared to our neighbors, CT is the only state that doesn't offer an affirmative defense



Vote Yes for SB509

AAC Address Verification Reforms for Registrants

What are Address Verifications?

Individuals on Connecticut's sex offense registry are required by state law to confirm their address by returning a letter mailed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) every three months. The signed letter must be received by DESPP within 10 days, which is no not possible under Postal Service delivery timetables of up to five days in each direction—taking up the entire permitted window.

The statutes governing the verifications include Sec. 54-251, 54-252, 54-253 and 54-254

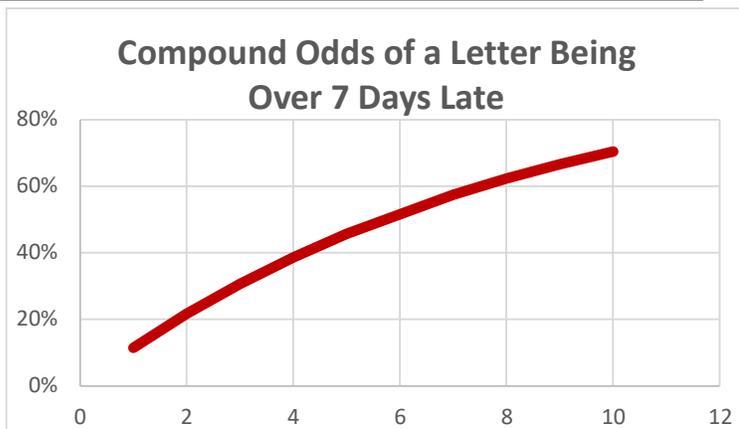
How are verifications enforced?

If the address verification letter is not returned within 10 days of its postmark, the individual is determined to be 'non-compliant,' and notice is provided to the local police. In Connecticut, 'failure to verify' is a strict liability Class 'D' felony, punishable by up to 5 years in prison and/or the extension of the term of probation.

Proposed Changes:

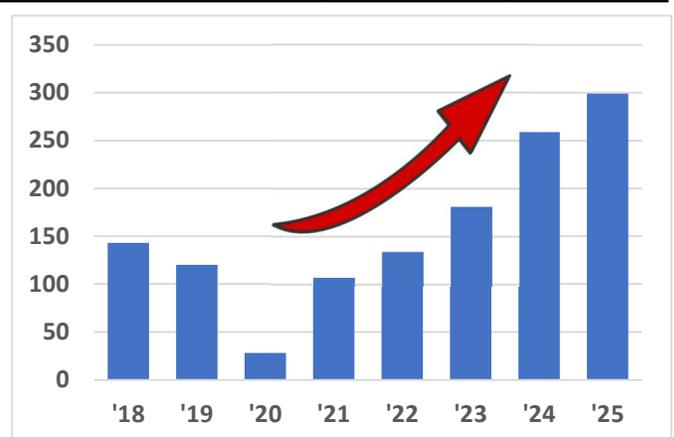
	Current Law	Proposed Amendment
Charge	Class D Felony (up to 5 years & \$5000)	Class C Misdemeanor (up to 3 months & \$500)
Return Window	10 days (one letter)	30 days (letter and/or replacement)
Grace Period	5 business days	5 business days (add language to clarify this is a true grace period)
Definition of 'Days'	---	Clarified as business days
Replacement Letter for Proactive Individuals	---	If the letter doesn't arrive, can contact Middletown to request a replacement letter to be sent within 5 days.
Automatic Dismissal of First Late Letter Violation if no prior conviction and compliance is quickly restored.	---	Provides a one-time pass to an individual who has never had a later letter conviction.
Defenses to Charge	No defenses – strict liability	Adds an affirmative defense when such letter is not returned through no fault of the individual.

A Small Chance of Late Mail Becomes a Likelihood



Nationwide, 3% of mail is delivered after more than 7 days late.

Convictions Influenced by USPS Policy 2018-2025



Data courtesy of CT Judicial Branch