
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6576

AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONDISCLOSURE OF RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

SUMMARY

This bill adds Office of the Attorney General (OAG) employees to the list of individuals covered by the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA) limitation on disclosing the covered individuals' home addresses (see BACKGROUND). In doing so, it prohibits OAG from disclosing its employees' home addresses from the office's personnel, medical, or similar files.

The bill also allows OAG employees to request address confidentiality from other public agencies (and from OAG with respect to records besides those described above). To do so, OAG employees must follow existing law's procedures for other covered individuals, including submitting a written request to the agency and providing it with his or her business address.

Such an agency that receives a FOIA request concerning an OAG employee must redact his or her home address only from records provided in response to a request that specifically names the covered individual. Additionally, the agency must make reasonable redaction efforts from (1) an existing list derived from a readily accessible electronic database and (2) any list that the agency voluntarily creates in response to a request for disclosure. The law permits disclosure of a covered individual's residential address in any other type of record (other than OAG's personnel, medical, or similar files, as described above).

As under existing law for other covered individuals, the disclosure prohibition also does not apply to home addresses of OAG employees contained in (1) documents eligible to be recorded in municipal land

records; (2) any list required by the state's election laws (e.g., voter registry lists, petition forms, logs of absentee ballot applications); or (3) municipal grand lists.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

BACKGROUND

Covered Individuals

The following public officials and employees are covered by FOIA's home address disclosure limitation:

1. federal court judges and magistrates;
2. Connecticut Superior and Appellate Court judges, Supreme Court justices, and family support magistrates;
3. sworn members of municipal police departments or the State Police and sworn law enforcement officers in the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection;
4. employees of the Judicial Branch and the departments of Correction and Children and Families;
5. attorneys who represent or have represented the state in a criminal prosecution;
6. attorneys who are or have been employed by the Public Defender Services Division and social workers employed by the division;
7. Division of Criminal Justice inspectors;
8. firefighters;
9. members and employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities; and
10. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services employees who provide direct patient care (CGS § 1-217).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 16 Nay 3 (03/31/2021)