



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 456

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 1016

Senate, April 14, 2021

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ETHICS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of any special act, municipal charter or ordinance, not later
3 than October 1, 2022, each municipality shall adopt and maintain a code
4 of ethics. Any municipality that has adopted a code of ethics prior to
5 January 1, 2022, shall not be required to adopt a new code of ethics
6 under this section. Any municipality that adopts provisions of the
7 model municipal code of ethics, developed by the Office of State Ethics
8 under subsection (b) of this section, on or before October 1, 2022, and
9 thereafter maintains such provisions, shall be deemed in compliance
10 with the requirements of this section.

11 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Office of State Ethics, in
12 consultation with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and
13 Connecticut Council of Small Towns, shall develop and publish on its
14 Internet web site a model municipal code of ethics which may be

15 adopted by municipalities. The office shall update such model
16 municipal code of ethics as the office deems necessary.

17 (c) Not later than January 15, 2023, each municipality shall submit a
18 notice to the Office of State Ethics certifying whether the municipality
19 has complied with the requirements of this section. Such notice shall
20 include a copy of such municipality's code of ethics.

21 Sec. 2. (*Effective January 1, 2022*) Not later than January 1, 2024, the
22 Office of State Ethics shall submit a report, in accordance with the
23 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
24 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
25 relating to ethics. Such report shall indicate the status of the compliance
26 of each municipality with the requirements of section 1 of this act.

27 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2022*) The Office of State Ethics may,
28 within available appropriations, conduct a municipal ethics education
29 program for municipal officials or employees or for organizations made
30 up of municipal members.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2022</i>	New section

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
State Ethics, Off.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill requires, by January 1, 2022, the Office of State Ethics (OSE), in consultation with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Connecticut Council of Small Towns, to develop and publish on its website a model municipal code of ethics which may be adopted by municipalities. The bill further requires, by October 1, 2022, that each municipality adopts and maintains a code of ethics. It exempts the requirement for municipalities that have adopted an ethics code prior to January 1, 2022. Finally, this section requires each municipality to submit a notice to OSE certifying whether it has complied with the requirements of this section by January 15, 2023. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this section of the bill.

Section 2 requires OSE to submit a report to the General Assembly indicating the status of the compliance of each municipality with the requirements of section 1 of this bill by no later than January 1, 2024. No fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of this provision.

Section 3 allows OSE to conduct a municipal ethics education program for municipal officials or employees or for organizations made up of municipal members. Depending on the number of municipal ethics education programs conducted, OSE may need additional

resources to fulfill this provision of the bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1016*****AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ETHICS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires each municipality to adopt and maintain a code of ethics by October 1, 2022. A municipality is deemed in compliance if it:

- adopts an ethics code before January 1, 2022, or
- adopts by October 1, 2022, and after that maintains, provisions of the model ethics code that the Office of State Ethics (OSE) must establish.

The bill requires OSE, in consultation with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Connecticut Council of Small Towns, to (1) develop a model municipal ethics code that municipalities may adopt and (2) publish this code on its website by January 1, 2022. OSE must update the model code as it deems necessary.

Under the bill, each municipality must submit a notice to OSE by January 15, 2023, certifying whether it has complied with the bill's requirements and providing a copy of its code. It requires OSE to submit a report to the Government Administration and Elections Committee on the status of each municipality's compliance by January 1, 2024.

The bill also authorizes OSE, within available appropriations, to conduct a municipal ethics education program for municipal officials or employees, or organizations made up of municipal members.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2022, except the code adoption requirement is effective October 1, 2022.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 4 (03/29/2021)