
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5362

AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS AT PUBLIC AGENCY MEETINGS.

SUMMARY

Under the Freedom of Information Act, public agencies must make their meetings, other than executive sessions, open to the public. This bill requires that members of the public be allowed to give oral testimony on any of these meetings' agenda items during a public comment period. It allows public agencies to adopt rules and restrictions on public comment periods, including those limiting the amount of time for each speaker or specific agenda items.

Under existing law, public agencies include any (1) state or local governmental agency, department, institution, bureau, board, or commission, including any executive, administrative, or legislative office, and the administrative functions of any judicial office, including the Division of Public Defender Services or (2) entity that is the functional equivalent of any such agency (CGS § 1-200).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/18/2022)