Senate

General Assembly

File No. 131

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1233

Senate, March 19, 2025

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 EXEMPTING THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL REPORTING AN ALLEGATION INVOLVING BIGOTRY OR BIAS AND OF THE ALLEGED OFFENDER FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

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

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the general statutes is amended by adding subdivision (29) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(NEW) (29) The name and address of an individual reporting, and the name and address of the alleged offender in a report of, an incident involving an allegation of bigotry or bias towards any person, group of persons or religiously-affiliated entity, based in whole or in part on the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of such person, group or entity, including, but not limited to, any allegation of a violation of section 46a-58, 53-37, 53-37a, 53-37b or 53a-40a, subdivision (3) of

subsection (a) of section 53a-62, subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180, subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180c, subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180d, subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-181c, section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181*l* to (A) a law enforcement agency, including on the standardized form or other reporting system developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 29-7d, or (B) any database for the reporting of such allegations established by the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*October 1, 2025*	1-210(b)(29)

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill exempts the name and address of the reporter and alleged offender from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, in certain hate crime reports made to law enforcement, and databases for tracking and reporting allegations, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1233

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL REPORTING AN ALLEGATION INVOLVING BIGOTRY OR BIAS AND OF THE ALLEGED OFFENDER FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

SUMMARY

This bill exempts from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) certain names and addresses in reports of alleged bigotry or bias towards a person, group of people, or religiously-affiliated entity based on their race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression (i.e. hate crime reports). More specifically, it exempts the names and addresses of the person making the report and the alleged offender in hate crime reports made to (1) law enforcement agencies, including on the standardized form or system developed for reports to the state Hate Crimes Investigative Unit, and (2) any database established by UConn's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy for reporting these allegations. The bill also specifies that its exemption includes hate crime reports with allegations of violating certain specified laws, as described below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

SPECIFIED CRIMES

The bill specifies that its exemption includes hate crime reports with allegations of violating the laws shown in the table below.

Table: Reported Crimes Specified in the Bill

CGS §	*Violation*
46a-58	Deprivation of rights, desecration of property, placing a burning cross or noose on property
53-37	Ridicule on account of protected characteristic (e.g., religion, color, nationality, or race)

53-37a	Deprivation of rights by person wearing mask or hood
53-37b	Deprivation of rights by using force or threat
53a-40a	Persistent offender of crimes involving bigotry or bias
53a-62(a)(3)	Threatening someone in a building or on the grounds of a house of religious worship, religiously-affiliated community center, school or institution of higher education, or day care center
53a-180(a)(4) 53a-180c(a)(4)	First or second degree falsely reporting an incident with specific intent to falsely report another person or group of people because of their protected status (e.g., race, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression)
53a-180d(a)(3)	Misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system with specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report false information about another person or group of persons because of their protected status
53a-181c(a)(4)	First degree stalking another person because of their protected status
53a-181j 53a-181k 53a-181l	First, second, or third degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias

RELATED BILLS

SB 1226, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, generally exempts from disclosure under FOIA records maintained or kept by or for public higher education institution faculty or staff arising from teaching or research on medical, artistic, scientific, legal, or other scholarly issues.

HB 6850, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, generally (1) expands FOIA's limitation on disclosing a home address in an agency's personnel, medical, or similar files to generally cover all of the agency's employees, rather than just specified groups of employees and individuals (e.g., certain judges and police officers), and (2) extends to all public agency employees provisions in existing law that allow covered individuals to also request address confidentiality for other types of records.

sHB 6883, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, (1) exempts any information indicating the location of a shelter or transitional housing for sexual assault victims from disclosure required under FOIA and (2) requires a public agency meeting's discussion about shelters or transitional housing for domestic violence

or sexual assault victims to be held in executive session if it would reveal the shelter's or housing's location.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 19 Nay 0 (02/28/2025)