
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6883 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT PROTECTING THE LOCATION OF HOUSING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS.

SUMMARY

This bill expands confidentiality protections for the locations of shelters or transitional housing for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

Current law specifies that the state Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) does not require a public agency to disclose any information indicating the location of a shelter or transitional housing for domestic violence victims. The bill instead explicitly prohibits public agencies from disclosing any information indicating these locations, and includes those for sexual assault victims, regardless of FOIA.

The bill also explicitly allows, regardless of FOIA's requirements, portions of public agency meetings to be held in executive session if they would reveal the location of a shelter or transitional housing for domestic violence or sexual assault victims.

Under FOIA and the bill, a "public agency" generally includes any:

1. executive, administrative, or legislative office of the state or any political subdivision of the state and any state or town agency;
2. department, board, commission, authority, or official of the state or of any municipality, school district, or other district or other political subdivision of the state;
3. committee of, or created by, any of these offices or officials;
4. judicial office, official, or body or committee, but only for administrative functions; and

5. person to the extent they are the functional equivalent of a public agency (CGS § 1-200(1)).

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which would have (1) extended current law to exempt information on the location of a shelter or transitional housing for sexual assault victims from disclosure required by FOIA and (2) required discussions at public agency meetings to be held in executive session if they would reveal the location of a shelter or transitional housing for domestic violence or sexual assault victims.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

Related Bills

SB 1226 (File 125), 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 out of teaching or research on medical, artistic, scientific, legal, or other scholarly issues.

SB 1233 (File 131), favorably reported by the GAE Committee, generally exempts from disclosure under FOIA the name and address of a person reporting an incident involving alleged bigotry or bias, and the alleged offender, in reports to law enforcement or a database for reporting these allegations established by UConn's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy.

SB 1433 (File 296), 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 include Office of the Attorney General (OAG) employees and (2) extends to OAG employees provisions in existing law that allow covered individuals to also request address confidentiality for other types of records.

SB 1520 (File 657), favorably reported by the GAE Committee,

specifies that FOIA's disclosure exemption for records covered by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) applies to education, rather than "educational," records exempt from FERPA, as it existed on January 3, 2012.

HB 6850 (File 146), 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 include all of the agency's employees, rather than just specified groups 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.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 9 Nay 0 (02/25/2025)