

# **House of Representatives**

# File No. 940

General Assembly

January Session, 2025 (Reprint of File No. 80)

Substitute House Bill No. 6073 As Amended by House Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner May 21, 2025

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR THE REVIEW OF EXISTING REGULATIONS OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES AND THE REPORTING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CONSULTANT STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

- Section 1. Section 4-189i of the general statutes is repealed and the
   following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):
- 3 (a) Not later than [July 1, 2017, and not later than every seven years 4 thereafter, each committee of cognizance, in consultation with each 5 agency that is within the cognizance of the committee, shall establish the 6 date by which each such agency shall submit a review of its existing 7 regulations and shall notify the administrator of the regulation review 8 committee of each such date and any extension thereof. In establishing 9 such date, or any extension of the date that may be requested by the 10 agency, the committee of cognizance (1) shall consider the volume and 11 complexity of such regulations and the personnel and other resources

12 of the agency that would be available to undertake the review within 13 the agency's available appropriations, and (2) may establish a schedule 14 of dates for the review of various portions of such regulations upon the 15 agreement of the committee of cognizance and the administrative head 16 of the agency.

17 (b) Not later than the date specified by the committee of cognizance 18 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, each such agency shall submit 19 to the committee of cognizance and to the administrator of the 20 regulation review committee] February 1, 2026, the office of the 21 Governor shall (1) prescribe an individual timeline for each agency of 22 the Executive Department that reports to the Governor, and any other 23 agency shall prescribe an individual timeline for such agency, to 24 conduct a review of its existing regulations, [which] and (2) notify the 25 regulation review committee and the joint standing committee of the 26 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government 27 oversight of such timeline. Any such review of existing regulations shall 28 include, but need not be limited to: [(1)] (A) The agency's 29 recommendations on how it may substantially reduce the number and 30 length of its existing regulations; [(2)] (B) the agency's determination of 31 whether each of its existing regulations [(A)] (i) is obsolete, [(B)] (ii) has 32 not been used within the preceding seven years, [(C)] (iii) is inconsistent 33 with any provision of the general statutes, federal law or any regulation 34 adopted under the general statutes or federal law, [(D)] (iv) has been the 35 subject of written complaints, and [(E)] (v) is otherwise no longer 36 effective; and [(3)] (C) the agency's recommendation, if any, regarding 37 any extraordinary circumstances in which waivers from its existing 38 regulations may be appropriate.

39 (b) Not later than the specified initial submission date for the 40 completion of such review and, thereafter, the reoccurring scheduled timeline prescribed individually by the office of the Governor or the 41 42 agency, as applicable, each agency shall submit a summary of the results 43 of the review conducted under subsection (a) of this section to the 44 administrator of the regulation review committee, the committee of 45 cognizance and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly sHB6073 / File No. 940

46 <u>having cognizance of matters relating to government oversight, in</u>
47 <u>accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.</u>

(c) Upon receipt of an agency's [review] <u>summary of the results of its</u>
<u>review</u>, the committee of cognizance shall schedule a public hearing,
which shall be held not later than ninety days following such receipt.
The committee of cognizance shall make copies of the [review]
<u>summary</u> available to the public at least fifteen days prior to the hearing.

53 (d) Following the public hearing: (1) The committee of cognizance 54 may request the agency to initiate the process under chapter 54 to carry 55 out a recommendation of the agency under subsection [(b)] (a) of this 56 section to amend or repeal an existing regulation which, in the 57 determination of the committee of cognizance, does not require the 58 enactment of authorizing legislation, and (2) the committee of 59 cognizance shall consider any recommendation by the agency under 60 subsection [(b)] (a) of this section which, in the determination of the 61 committee of cognizance, would require the enactment of authorizing 62 legislation.

63 (e) If an agency fails to submit a summary of the results of the review 64 of its regulations to the committee of cognizance, [and] the 65 administrator of the regulation review committee and the joint standing 66 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters 67 relating to government oversight as required by subsection (b) of this 68 section or if the committee of cognizance determines that the agency has 69 not conducted a satisfactory review of its regulations as required by 70 [said] subsection (a) of this section, the committee of cognizance may: 71 (1) Conduct a review of the existing regulations of the agency, as 72 described in subsection [(b)] (a) of this section, (2) request the agency to initiate the process under chapter 54 to carry out a recommendation of 73 74 the committee of cognizance pursuant to such review to amend or 75 repeal an existing regulation which, in the determination of the 76 committee of cognizance, does not require the enactment of authorizing 77 legislation, and (3) introduce legislation to authorize the agency to 78 amend or repeal existing regulations. If the agency fails to initiate the

process to amend or repeal an existing regulation pursuant to
subdivision (2) of this subsection, the committee of cognizance may
introduce legislation requiring the agency to initiate such process.

Sec. 2. Subdivision (3) of section 4-189h of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*1, 2025):

(3) "Existing regulation" means a regulation that was adopted by an
agency no later than one year prior to the scheduled date of review, as
provided in subsection [(b)] (a) of section 4-189i, as amended by this act;

88 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section:

89 (1) "Consultant" means any professional who (A) is registered or 90 licensed to practice such profession in accordance with the applicable 91 provisions of the general statutes or any planner or any environmental, 92 management or financial specialist, and (B) provides consultant services 93 to a state agency pursuant to a contract with such state agency, 94 including, but not limited to, any architect, professional engineer, 95 accountant, planner or environmental, management or financial 96 specialist;

97 (2) "Consultant services" includes administrative, planning, analysis, 98 statistical or research services rendered by any architect, professional 99 engineer, accountant, planner or environmental, management or 100 financial specialist as well as incidental services that members of such 101 professions and those in their employ are authorized to perform, for 102 purposes of recommending a state agency course of action;

(3) "Firm" means any individual, partnership, corporation, joint
venture, association or other legal entity authorized by law to offer
consultant services; and

(4) "State agency" means any office, department, board, council,
commission, institution, constituent unit of the state system of higher
education, technical education and career school or other agency in the

109 executive branch of state government.

110 (b) Any state agency that contracts with a firm to provide consulting 111 services at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars or more for purposes 112 of producing a study or other report with recommendations for future 113 actions for the state agency to undertake shall, not later than one year 114 after receiving the results of such study or a final report from such firm, 115 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the 116 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General 117 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government 118 oversight, summarizing the findings of the entity's report, whether any 119 recommendations have been implemented by the agency, whether the 120 state agency intends to implement any such recommendations in the 121 future and, if applicable, by what date.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following<br/>sections:Section 1October 1, 20254-189i

Section 1	October 1, 2025	4-189i
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	4-189h(3)
Sec. 3	from passage	New section

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 requires agencies to review existing regulations, imposes timelines for doing so, and creates requirements to share consultant reports with the General Assembly under certain conditions, resulting in no fiscal impact. There is no fiscal impact to the state as state agencies have the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact, resulting in the fiscal impact described above.

#### The Out Years

State Impact: None Municipal Impact: None

# OLR Bill Analysis sHB 6073 (as amended by House "A")\*

### AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR THE REVIEW OF EXISTING REGULATIONS OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES.

#### SUMMARY

By law, agencies must periodically review their regulations and the legislative committee of cognizance must hold a public hearing and consider the agency's recommendations. This bill eliminates the requirement that each committee, in consultation with the agencies within its cognizance, establish a timeline for conducting these reviews every seven years. It instead transfers responsibility for setting the timeline to the governor's office, if the agency reports to him, or to the agency itself if it does not report to the governor. It also removes the seven-year cycle and modifies the legislative committees that receive these reviews and timelines.

Separately, the bill requires any state agency that contracts for at least \$100,000 in consulting services for a study with recommendations for future actions by the agency to submit a report to the Government Oversight Committee.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

\*<u>House Amendment "A"</u> strikes the underlying bill, which generally required state agencies to conduct these reviews every seven years, and replaces it with these provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, except that the provisions on consultant reports are effective upon passage.

AGENCY REGULATION REVIEWS

Current law requires each legislative committee, at least every seven years, to consult with state agencies within its cognizance to establish a date by which the agency will submit a review of its existing regulations to the committee. Committees must notify the Regulation Review Committee administrator about these dates and any extensions.

The bill instead requires, by February 1, 2026, the governor's office, for each executive branch agency that reports to the governor, to (1) set an agency-specific timeline for each agency to review its existing regulations and (2) notify the Regulation Review and Government Oversight committees about these timelines. Agencies that do not report to the governor must set their own timelines.

By the specified initial submission date for the review's completion, and as often as set by the governor or agency as applicable, each agency must submit a summary of the review results to the Regulation Review Committee administrator, the committee of cognizance, and the Government Oversight Committee.

As under existing law, the agency's review must at least include (1) recommendations for reducing regulations' number and length; (2) determinations on whether they are obsolete, unused, inconsistent with other laws, no longer effective, or the subject of written complaints; and (3) recommendations on extraordinary circumstances warranting their waiver. The bill also generally maintains the existing law's provisions requiring the committees of cognizance to conduct public hearings on agency reviews and act on agency recommendations.

#### CONSULTANT REPORTS

The bill requires any state agency that contracts for at least \$100,000 in consulting services for a study with recommendations for future actions by the agency to submit a report to the Government Oversight Committee. The report must summarize the findings of the consultant's report and whether the agency has implemented or intends to implement any of its recommendations, and if so, by what date. The agency must submit the report to the committee within one year after

receiving the study results or final report from the consulting service.

For this provision, a "state agency" is any office, department, board, council, commission, institution, constituent unit of the state higher education system, technical education and career school, or other executive branch agency.

"Consultant services" include administrative, planning, analysis, statistical, or research services rendered by an architect; professional engineer; accountant; planner; or environmental, management, or financial specialist (including incidental services that those professions and their employees are authorized to perform) to recommend a state agency's course of action.

## BACKGROUND

# Related Bill

sHB 7184, § 5, reported favorably by the Government Oversight Committee, contains identical provisions regarding consultant reports.

# COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable Yea 9 Nay 0 (02/25/2025)