



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 483**

January Session, 2025

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1209

*Senate, April 3, 2025*

The Committee on Government Oversight reported through SEN. GADKAR-WILCOX of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS DISCLOSURE EXEMPTIONS UNDER SAID ACT.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 1-217 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2025*):

4 (a) No public agency may disclose, under the Freedom of Information  
5 Act, from its personnel, medical or similar files, the residential address  
6 of any of the following persons employed by such public agency:

7 (1) A federal court judge, federal court magistrate, judge of the  
8 Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court of the state, or  
9 family support magistrate;

- 10 (2) A sworn member of a municipal police department, a sworn  
11 member of the Division of State Police within the Department of  
12 Emergency Services and Public Protection or a sworn law enforcement  
13 officer within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection;
- 14 (3) An employee of the Department of Correction;
- 15 (4) An attorney-at-law who represents or has represented the state in  
16 a criminal prosecution;
- 17 (5) An attorney-at-law who is or has been employed by the Division  
18 of Public Defender Services or a social worker who is employed by the  
19 Division of Public Defender Services;
- 20 (6) An inspector employed by the Division of Criminal Justice;
- 21 (7) A firefighter;
- 22 (8) An employee of the Department of Children and Families;
- 23 (9) A member or employee of the Board of Pardons and Paroles;
- 24 (10) An employee of the judicial branch;
- 25 (11) An employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction  
26 Services who provides direct care to patients;
- 27 (12) A member or employee of the Commission on Human Rights  
28 and Opportunities; [or]
- 29 (13) A state marshal appointed by the State Marshal Commission  
30 pursuant to section 6-38b; or
- 31 (14) A teacher employed by a local or regional board of education.

32 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
33 study and make recommendations regarding the current exemption  
34 from disclosure of certain public employee residential addresses under  
35 section 1-217 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The task  
36 force shall consider whether such exemption should be expanded to

37 include additional employees.

38 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

39 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
40 one of whom represents town clerks and one of whom represents  
41 registrars of voters;

42 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
43 whom represents educators in the state;

44 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
45 Representatives, who represents journalists in the state;

46 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who  
47 represents an organization that supports efforts to protect civil liberties;

48 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
49 Representatives, who represents municipalities;

50 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who  
51 represents an organization interested in issues related to the Freedom of  
52 Information Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes;

53 (7) The executive director of the Freedom of Information  
54 Commission, or a designee;

55 (8) The Attorney General, or a designee;

56 (9) The Secretary of the State, or a designee;

57 (10) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or a designee;

58 (11) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,  
59 or a designee; and

60 (12) The Chief Court Administrator, or a designee.

61 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
62 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member

63 of the General Assembly.

64 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
65 than August 1, 2025. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing  
66 authority.

67 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
68 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
69 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
70 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than  
71 October 1, 2025.

72 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
73 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government  
74 oversight shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

75 (g) Not later than February 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report  
76 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
77 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
78 government oversight, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
79 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that  
80 it submits such report or February 1, 2026, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-217(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-217(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**GOS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*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.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill extends existing protections from address disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, to teachers employed by local and regional boards of education. In addition, the bill establishes a taskforce to make recommendations on current disclosure exemptions resulting in no fiscal impact to the state, because the requirements of the bill can be met with existing resources.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 1209*****AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS DISCLOSURE EXEMPTIONS UNDER SAID ACT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill adds teachers employed by a local or regional board of education (BOEs) to the list of individuals covered by the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA) limitation on disclosing home addresses (see BACKGROUND). In doing so, it prohibits a BOE from disclosing, under FOIA, a teacher's home address from the BOE's personnel, medical, or similar files. It also allows the teachers to request address confidentiality from other public agencies (and from their BOE with respect to records besides those described above). To do so, the teacher must follow existing law's procedures for other covered individuals, including by submitting to the agency a written request with his or her business address.

Additionally, the bill establishes a task force to study FOIA's current exemption from disclosing the home addresses of certain public employees. The task force must consider whether the exemption should be expanded to include additional employees and submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the Government Oversight Committee by February 1, 2026. The task force ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, except that provisions establishing the task force are effective upon passage.

**TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION**

Under the bill, the task force has the following six ex officio members,

or their designees: the Freedom of Information Commission's executive director, the attorney general, the secretary of the state, the administrative services commissioner, the emergency services and public protection commissioner, and the chief court administrator. The task force also includes the eight appointed members shown in the table below.

**Table: Appointed Task Force Members**

<i><b>Appointing Authority</b></i>	<i><b>Number of Appointments</b></i>	<i><b>Required Qualifications</b></i>
House Speaker	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents registrars of voters</li> <li>• Represents town clerks</li> </ul>
Senate president pro tempore	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents educators</li> <li>• Unspecified</li> </ul>
House majority leader	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents journalists</li> </ul>
Senate majority leader	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents an organization that supports efforts to protect civil liberties</li> </ul>
House minority leader	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents municipalities</li> </ul>
Senate minority leader	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represents an organization interested in issues related to FOIA</li> </ul>

Under the bill, all initial appointments must be made by August 1, 2025, and the appointed task force members may be legislators. Appointing authorities must fill any vacancies. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must pick the task force's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the first meeting by October 1, 2025. The Government Oversight Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Covered Individuals***

Under existing law, the following public officials and employees, among others, are covered by FOIA's home address disclosure limitation:

1. Connecticut judges and family support magistrates, judicial

branch employees, prosecutors, public defenders, public defender social workers, and Division of Criminal Justice inspectors;

2. Firefighters, state marshals, and police officers;
3. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services employees who provide direct patient care, and employees of the departments of Correction and Children and Families; and
4. members and employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

### ***Requests for Home Address Confidentiality***

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, an agency that receives a FOIA request about a covered individual who requested address confidentiality must redact the person's home address only from records provided in response to a request that specifically names him or her. Additionally, the agency must make reasonable efforts to redact the person's address from (1) an existing list derived from a readily accessible electronic database and (2) any list that the agency voluntarily creates in response to a disclosure request. The law permits disclosure of a covered individual's residential address in any other type of record (other than in their employer's personnel, medical, or similar files, as described above). The disclosure prohibition also does not apply to a teacher's home address in (1) documents eligible to be recorded in municipal land records; (2) any list required by the state's election laws (e.g., voter registry lists, petition forms, and logs of absentee ballot applications); or (3) municipal grand lists.

### ***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 the 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, (1) adds Office of the Attorney General employees to the list of individuals covered by FOIA's limitation on disclosing home addresses and (2) extends to them provisions in existing law that allow covered individuals to also request home address confidentiality for other types of records.

HB 6883 (File 82), 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 them to be held in executive session if it would reveal the shelter's or housing's location.

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 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 home address confidentiality for other types of records.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 8      Nay 4      (03/18/2025)