

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5267

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELECTRONIC PORTAL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR

**Title:** STATE GRANT PROGRAMS.

**Vote Date:** 3/26/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/7/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

There are many different portals to apply for federal and state grants within Connecticut. There is a growing demand to consolidate all the information pertaining to these grants on a single web portal for easier access. This bill would require the Office of Policy and Management to create a statewide electronic portal in which people and agencies can access information regarding the dispersion of grants as well as apply and receive grants. This bill aims to create efficiency in managing the dispersion of grants and consolidate the process into a single system.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

#### **Jeffrey Beckham, Secretary of Office of Policy and Management**

Secretary Beckham writes in opposition to the bill. This legislation intends to implement a statewide Grants Management System which will automate the full administrative process of state and federal grants. This occurs when the state receives funding as a grantee and when the state awards funding as a grantor. It will also establish a portal that will be the primary environment used by the state to enable agencies to advertise grant funding opportunities, enable public view of various funding opportunities, enable grant seekers to view, sort, and filter and apply for different funding opportunities, enable individuals to create profiles to apply for grants and submit applications, and to enable agencies to accept applications and manage subawards issued by agencies. Further, the bill will also increase the efficiency of managing the programmatic and financial aspects of dispersing grants as well as provide visibility into grant performance, analysis, and decision making. Secretary Beckham further writes that the intent is not to require the use of GMS, but rather implement it on a voluntary

basis to ten agencies, then expand it to additional agencies. In addition, he writes that the legislation suggests that state-wide historical data related to grants should be made available on OPM's website rather than creating another database. He concludes by writing that OPM and DAS are currently in the process, with state agencies, to implement an electronic portal as part of its GMS initiative and that establishing a new portal is unnecessary.

**Michelle Gilman, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services**

Commissioner Gilman writes in opposition to the bill. The Commissioner writes that while she is supportive of the legislation's intent, they fear, along with OPM, that this bill will unintentionally slow down the existing effort to procure a GMS and will create duplicative work. She writes that DAS, OPM, and several other agencies are already working to identify a statewide Grants Management Solution.

**Shannon Kief, Legal Program Director, SEEC**

Director Kief writes that SEEC neither supports nor opposes this bill but recommends clarification. They highlight that it is not clear whether the public grants awarded under the Citizen's Election Program would be subject to this legislation. They write to encourage the exemption of CEP grants from this proposal as they are already electronically disclosed on their website.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None expressed.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Sam Erickson**

**Date: 4/1/2025**