

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7092

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUDITORS OF

Title: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Oversight Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill expands the existing prohibition on state agencies making payments more than \$50,000 to resigning or retiring employees to avoid litigation or pursuant to a non-disparagement agreement, to also be pursuant to any other agreement that prohibits an employee from working while continuing to be paid the employee's regular salary and benefits. Section 2 clarifies that salaries, benefits, and expenses of employees of a foundation established by a state agency to coordinate emergency recovery are to be paid by the foundation, unless they are state employees receiving salaries or benefits paid by the state based on an agreement. This bill requires DAS to develop a model policy by December 1, 2025, concerning best practices for a state agency to receive, track, and process complaints made by individuals or entities concerning state agency. Also requires each state agency to either adopt this model policy or its own policy regarding the processing of such complaints by February 1, 2026, and post the policy on their website. Section 4 removes the Comptroller from participating in the annual audits of the Treasurer by the Auditors of Public Accounts. Section 6 requires any state agency entering into or amending a contract for the purchase of auditing services to ensure the contract requires the entity providing services provides any information related to the findings to the Auditors of Public Accounts no later than 15 days after receiving the audit. Section 8 of the bill clarifies the board of directors of each quasi-public agency is required submit a report to the Governor and Auditors of Public six months after their fiscal year.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Change timing of quasi-public agency audits to 6 months after their fiscal year.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**John Geragosian, Craig Miner: CT Auditors of Public Accounts:**

The Auditors are thankful for supporting the recommendations made in their annual report. They have several recommendations they feel would strengthen the bill.

Michael W. Shea: Executive Director, CT Airport Authority:

The CAA is requesting that the committee make reports due annually by December 15th. The July 1 deadline will force them to submit incomplete or unaudited information because they operate on a July 1- June 30 fiscal year.

Andrea Barton Reeves: Commissioner, Department of Social Services:

DDS opposes sections 6 and 7 of the bill because it may risk interference in important law enforcement and civil fraud actions. This would be contrary to both established law and expectations pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the agencies and the OIG.

Michelle Gilman: Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services:

Ms. Gilman believes that each state agency has a complaint process already in place, and believes this legislation would add administrative burden, duplicative processes, additional costs, and confusion to already existing complaints processes.

Garrett T. Eucalitto: Commissioner CT Department of Transportation:

Mr. Eucalitto feels that the CT DOT has a robust system for dealing with complaints and that this legislation would add unnecessary additional administrative burdens, added costs and result in duplicative processes.

James Desantos: CT Green Bank:

The Green Bank stated that a July 1st due date does not provide enough time to close the fiscal year and complete their independent audit.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**Bryant Abbott: Citizen:**

Supports expanding the ability of both State employees as well as concerned citizens' abilities to issue and track complaints.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Greg Wolff

Date: 3/24/25