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## 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.

\*House Amendment "A" 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)