

# Government Oversight Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5250 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION FOR REVISIONS TO THE FREEDOM OF

**Title:** INFORMATION ACT.

**Vote Date:** 3/17/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/24/2026

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

GOS

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill implements recommendations from the FOIA Commission to update the Freedom of Information Act by making several clarifications and technical changes. HB5250 updates provisions related to FOIA training sessions, requires that appeals for denial of access to public records involving a state or municipal CEO also include either DESPP or DAS as a party, expands the definition of “hand-held scanners” to include devices like mobile phones and cameras for copying records, and permits electronic transmission of special meeting notices to public agency members. It also clarifies that the definition of “governmental function” applies specifically to certain large contracts under existing statute without invoking a broader functional equivalency test, while the remaining sections make technical and conforming revisions.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

**[Colleen Murphy, Executive Director and General Counsel, The Freedom of Information Commission \(FOI\)](#)**: Testified in support of HB 5250. The Commission stated that the bill makes several technical updates to the Freedom of Information Act, including revising training requirements, clarifying appeal procedures when records are withheld for safety concerns, and expanding the definition of a hand-held scanner to include mobile phones and other electronic devices used to capture images of public records. The bill also clarifies the definition of “governmental function” and allows public agencies to send special meeting notices electronically.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Lisa Dalton, President of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association (CTCA)**: Testified in support of the bill. She stated that the association supports Section 3 of the bill, which clarifies that electronic devices such as cell phones and cameras may be used to capture images of public records. She noted that this change would improve public access to records while supporting the work of town clerks in maintaining and preserving municipal records.

**Patrick King**: Supports the bill. He stated that the bill could improve government transparency and encouraged broader disclosure of government information.

**Jerome Cincotta**: supports this bill. He states that this bill would strengthen transparency and government accountability by improving timeliness of Freedom of Information responses.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None

**Reported by: Clerk- Greg Wolff  
Assistant Clerk- Mike Hamann**

**Date: 3/20/26**