

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5532 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS AND

Title: INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS IN SAID CODES.

Vote Date: 3/23/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/13/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill is intended to strengthen and modernize ethics rules for public officials and state employees by improving regulation, preventing favoritism through a ban on nepotism, simplifying financial disclosure requirements, expanding conflict-of-interest protections to include outside employment relationships, and updating monetary thresholds to reflect current standards.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director, State of Connecticut-Office of State Ethics

Peter Lewandowski, from the Office of State Ethics, expresses his support for the bill. As well as expresses several updates to Connecticut's ethics laws: **Quorum change:** Lower the required number of members for the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (CEAB) to conduct business from 6 to 5 (a simple majority), so meetings can still happen despite absences or vacancies. **Reporting of securities on the Statement of Financial Interests:** Expand an exemption so certain retirement plan investments (like 403(b) plans) don't have to be reported on financial interest statements. **Prohibit nepotism:** Add a clear prohibition on hiring or promoting based on family relationships, reinforcing merit-based decisions. **Conflict of interest (major conflicts):** Broaden rules so conflicts include situations involving a public official's or their spouse's outside employer. Officials must recuse themselves or publicly explain why they can still act fairly. **Conflict of interest (potential conflicts):** Apply similar rules to non-elected officials and employees—requiring either recusal or a written disclosure

before taking action. Overall, the purpose of the update is to improve functionality, transparency, fairness, and modernization of the state's ethics rules.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

1 individual expressed support for this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Luna Romani

Date: 03/31/2026