

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-250 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF STATE AGENCY RESPONSE TIMES TO
Title: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/24/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Sampson

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the Office of Policy and Management to conduct a study of state agency response times to FOIA requests and report the findings to the Government Oversight Committee by January 15, 2027. Reports will include a summary of average state agency response times, information about when unreasonable response times were the basis of a complaint filed with FOIC, and any recommended legislation to address any findings of such study.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Colleen M. Murphy, Executive Director and General Counsel, The Freedom of Information Commission:](#) The Commission stated that the bill would study state agency response times to Freedom of Information requests, noting that agencies have at times taken months or years to provide records. It emphasized that prompt responses are a statutory duty and are necessary to protect the public's right to access government information.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Rob Sampson, State Senator-16th District:](#) Senator Sampson testified in support of the bill. He stated that the bill would strengthen transparency and accountability by reinforcing timely compliance with Freedom of Information requests. He emphasized that delayed responses

undermine public trust and that timely access to public records is essential for government accountability.

Liz Dupont-Diehl, Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG): Ms. Dupont-Diehl testified in support of the bill. She stated that CCAG filed a Freedom of Information request for correspondences but did not receive a response. She emphasized that timely responses to FOI requests are necessary to ensure transparency and public accountability.

Thomas Scheffey, Vice President, Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information (CCFOI): Mr. Scheffey testified in support of the bill. He stated that the bill would study state agency response times to Freedom of Information requests, noting that agencies sometimes delay responses for months or years. He emphasized that such delays undermine transparency and public confidence in government accountability.

Linda Dalessio: Testified in support of the bill. She stated that she has experienced repeated delays in responses to Freedom of Information requests.

Marcella Kurowski: Testified in support of the bill. She stated that the bill would strengthen transparency and government accountability.

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, ACLU of Connecticut: The ACLU-CT supports SB 250, stating that timely responses to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests are essential for government transparency, accountability, and protection against abuse and discrimination. She testifies that delayed responses undermine democratic oversight and public trust and views the bill's proposed study of agency response times as an important first step in identifying gaps in transparency. However, she urges the legislature to go further by enacting stronger measures to ensure agencies respond promptly and are held accountable when they fail to meet their obligations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

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

Date: 3/20/26