

Government Oversight Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-324 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT OVER FRAUD AND WASTE AND ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
Title: AND EFFICIENCY.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep Reyes, Sen Cicarella, Sen Sampson

REASONS FOR BILL:

Sec 1 establishes a working group to study and recommend legislation preventing the waste of taxpayer dollars by establishing partnerships between state agencies and private providers to improve the delivery of services, reduce cost, and foster investigations to uncover fraud and waste in the areas of employee contracts, renumeration of employees, and pension benefits.

Sec 2 establishes an Office of Government Oversight and Efficiency, charged with detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the management of state personnel, as well as in the use and disposition of state property and in the collection and expenditure of state and federal funds administered by state agencies. This office is also required to evaluate the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of governmental agencies in the performance of their delegated duties and functions, and of private entities that contract with those agencies to provide government services.

Sec 3 requires the Office of Government Oversight and Efficiency to establish a system for the coordination of efforts between its office and officials performing similar duties and internal auditing functions within the various governmental agencies.

Sec 4 requires the Office of Government Oversight and Efficiency to conduct preemptive inspections, inquiries, and investigations related to expenditure of state funds, the use of state-owned property, and management practices and regulatory or statutory compliance of state agencies.

Sec 5 allows the Office of Government Oversight and Efficiency to make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly concerning the prevention and detection of fraud, waste, and abuse, including proposed legislation or regulations.

Sec 6 adds the Office of Government Oversight and Efficiency to the list of entities that individuals or agencies are required to report to when they have reasonable cause to believe someone has violated the Code of Ethics for Public Officials.

Secs 7-13 make conforming changes.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

In Sec 1- Removed the Auditors from the working group.

In lines 63- 87, changed the appointment of the executive director from the Auditors to the four legislative caucus leaders.

In lines 166-67- added Subdiv. (3) re two-year time limit after which the records are no longer confidential and exempt from FOIA, which would be in addition to the conclusion of an investigation/action or if deemed appropriate for earlier release by the executive director

In Section 11 re whistleblower complaints, removed brackets around references to Auditors in reporting context.

In lines 712-713, changed “financial implications” to “adverse financial implication of \$500,000 or more”.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

John C. Geragosian, State Auditor, Auditors of Public Accounts:

Mr. Geragosian shares his concerns about this bill requesting that the committee removes his office from the working group in line 26 of the bill. He also requests that the bill includes a provision requiring the Office of Government Oversight and Efficiency to share all whistleblower complaints with his office and report the results of its investigations to the office for consideration when conducting audits.

Paula Pearlman, Director, Freedom of Information Commission :

Paula Pearlman opposes this bill, specifically Section 5(d) and Section 14. Ms. Pearlman believes that Section 5(d) proposes an exemption that is overly broad and unnecessary, given existing exemptions. In reference to Section 14 of this bill, Ms. Pearlman is concerned that contacting all individuals for whom the Commission has an email address of every change in the FOI Act would consume a disproportionate amount of the Commission’s limited resources and would place an undue burden on the agency.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Senator Jeff Gordon:

Senator Gordon strongly supports this bill and believes it emphasizes the points that taxpayer money must be handled with care, agencies must follow the law, and government must remain accountable to the people.

JM JM, Citizen:

This citizen expresses general support for this bill.

Ben Shaiken, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance:

Mr. Shaiken supports this bill's aim to establish a working group to study and recommend legislation related to a more cost-efficient service-delivery system for private nonprofit health and human services providers.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

**Reported by: Clerk- Greg Wolff
Legislative Intern- Sara Velasco**

Date: 3/19/26