



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Raised Bill No. 5250**

LCO No. 1400



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Introduced by:  
(GOS)

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 1-205 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2026*):

4 (e) The Freedom of Information Commission shall conduct training  
5 sessions, at least annually, for members of public agencies for the  
6 purpose of educating such members as to the requirements of this  
7 section and sections [1-7 to 1-14, inclusive, 1-16 to 1-18, inclusive,] 1-200  
8 to 1-202, inclusive, as amended by this act, [1-205,] 1-205a, 1-206, 1-210  
9 to [1-217] 1-219, inclusive, as amended by this act, 1-225 to 1-232,  
10 inclusive, as amended by this act, and 1-240 [1-241 and 19a-342] to 1-  
11 242, inclusive.

12 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 1-210 of the 2026 supplement to the  
13 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
14 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

15 (d) Whenever a public agency, except the Judicial Department or  
16 Legislative Department, receives a request from any person for  
17 disclosure of any records described in subdivision (19) of subsection (b)  
18 of this section under the Freedom of Information Act, the public agency  
19 shall promptly notify the Commissioner of Administrative Services or  
20 the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, as  
21 applicable, of such request, in the manner prescribed by such  
22 commissioner, before complying with the request as required by the  
23 Freedom of Information Act. If the commissioner, after consultation  
24 with the chief executive officer of the applicable agency, believes the  
25 requested record is exempt from disclosure pursuant to subdivision (19)  
26 of subsection (b) of this section, the commissioner may direct the agency  
27 to withhold such record from such person. In any appeal brought under  
28 the provisions of section 1-206 of the Freedom of Information Act for  
29 denial of access to records for any of the reasons described in  
30 subdivision (19) of subsection (b) of this section, such appeal shall be  
31 against (1) the chief executive officer of the executive branch state  
32 agency or the municipal, district or regional agency that maintains or  
33 has custody of the requested record, and (2) the commissioner who  
34 issued the directive to the public agency that maintains or has custody  
35 of such record to withhold such record pursuant to subdivision (19) of  
36 subsection (b) of this section, [exclusively, or,] except in the case of  
37 records concerning Judicial Department facilities, such appeal shall be  
38 against the Chief Court Administrator [or,] and in the case of records  
39 concerning the Legislative Department, such appeal shall be against the  
40 executive director of the Joint Committee on Legislative Management.

41 Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 1-212 of the general statutes is  
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
43 *1, 2026*):

44 (g) Any individual may copy a public record through the use of a  
45 hand-held scanner. A public agency may establish a fee structure not to  
46 exceed twenty dollars for an individual to pay each time the individual  
47 copies records at the agency with a hand-held scanner. As used in this  
48 section, "hand-held scanner" means a battery operated electronic

49 scanning device the use of which (1) leaves no mark or impression on  
50 the public record, and (2) does not unreasonably interfere with the  
51 operation of the public agency. "Hand-held scanner" includes, but is not  
52 limited to, a mobile telephone, a camera or any other portable device  
53 capable of capturing an image of a public record.

54 Sec. 4. Section 1-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
55 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

56 As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases have the  
57 following meanings, except where such terms are used in a context  
58 which clearly indicates the contrary:

59 (1) "Public agency" or "agency" means:

60 (A) Any executive, administrative or legislative office of the state or  
61 any political subdivision of the state and any state or town agency, any  
62 department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority or official  
63 of the state or of any city, town, borough, municipal corporation, school  
64 district, regional district or other district or other political subdivision of  
65 the state, including any committee of, or created by, any such office,  
66 subdivision, agency, department, institution, bureau, board,  
67 commission, authority or official, and also includes any judicial office,  
68 official, or body or committee thereof but only with respect to its or their  
69 administrative functions, and for purposes of this subparagraph,  
70 "judicial office" includes, but is not limited to, the Division of Public  
71 Defender Services;

72 (B) Any person to the extent such person is deemed to be the  
73 functional equivalent of a public agency pursuant to law; or

74 (C) Any "implementing agency", as defined in section 32-222.

75 (2) "Meeting" means any hearing or other proceeding of a public  
76 agency, any convening or assembly of a quorum of a multimember  
77 public agency, and any communication by or to a quorum of a  
78 multimember public agency, whether in person or by means of

79 electronic equipment, to discuss or act upon a matter over which the  
80 public agency has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power.  
81 "Meeting" does not include: Any meeting of a personnel search  
82 committee for executive level employment candidates; any chance  
83 meeting, or a social meeting neither planned nor intended for the  
84 purpose of discussing matters relating to official business; strategy or  
85 negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; a caucus of members  
86 of a single political party notwithstanding that such members also  
87 constitute a quorum of a public agency; an administrative or staff  
88 meeting of a single-member public agency; and communication limited  
89 to notice of meetings of any public agency or the agendas thereof. A  
90 quorum of the members of a public agency who are present at any event  
91 which has been noticed and conducted as a meeting of another public  
92 agency under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act shall not  
93 be deemed to be holding a meeting of the public agency of which they  
94 are members as a result of their presence at such event.

95 (3) "Caucus" means (A) a convening or assembly of the enrolled  
96 members of a single political party who are members of a public agency  
97 within the state or a political subdivision, or (B) the members of a  
98 multimember public agency, which members constitute a majority of  
99 the membership of the agency, or the other members of the agency who  
100 constitute a minority of the membership of the agency, who register  
101 their intention to be considered a majority caucus or minority caucus, as  
102 the case may be, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act,  
103 provided (i) the registration is made with the office of the Secretary of  
104 the State for any such public agency of the state, in the office of the clerk  
105 of a political subdivision of the state for any public agency of a political  
106 subdivision of the state, or in the office of the clerk of each municipal  
107 member of any multitown district or agency, (ii) no member is  
108 registered in more than one caucus at any one time, (iii) no such  
109 member's registration is rescinded during the member's remaining term  
110 of office, and (iv) a member may remain a registered member of the  
111 majority caucus or minority caucus regardless of whether the member  
112 changes his or her party affiliation under chapter 143.

113 (4) "Person" means natural person, partnership, corporation, limited  
114 liability company, association or society.

115 (5) "Public records or files" means any recorded data or information  
116 relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used,  
117 received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is  
118 entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under section 1-218, as  
119 amended by this act, whether such data or information be handwritten,  
120 typed, tape-recorded, videotaped, printed, photostated, photographed  
121 or recorded by any other method.

122 (6) "Executive sessions" means a meeting of a public agency at which  
123 the public is excluded for one or more of the following purposes: (A)  
124 Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance,  
125 evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided  
126 that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open  
127 meeting; (B) strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or  
128 pending litigation to which the public agency or a member thereof,  
129 because of the member's conduct as a member of such agency, is a party  
130 until such litigation or claim has been finally adjudicated or otherwise  
131 settled; (C) matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of  
132 security personnel, or devices affecting public security; (D) discussion  
133 of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate by the  
134 state or a political subdivision of the state when publicity regarding such  
135 site, lease, sale, purchase or construction would adversely impact the  
136 price of such site, lease, sale, purchase or construction until such time as  
137 all of the property has been acquired or all proceedings or transactions  
138 concerning same have been terminated or abandoned; and (E)  
139 discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public  
140 records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b)  
141 of section 1-210.

142 (7) "Personnel search committee" means a body appointed by a public  
143 agency, whose sole purpose is to recommend to the appointing agency  
144 a candidate or candidates for an executive-level employment position.  
145 Members of a "personnel search committee" shall not be considered in

146 determining whether there is a quorum of the appointing or any other  
147 public agency.

148 (8) "Pending claim" means a written notice to an agency which sets  
149 forth a demand for legal relief or which asserts a legal right stating the  
150 intention to institute an action in an appropriate forum if such relief or  
151 right is not granted.

152 (9) "Pending litigation" means (A) a written notice to an agency which  
153 sets forth a demand for legal relief or which asserts a legal right stating  
154 the intention to institute an action before a court if such relief or right is  
155 not granted by the agency; (B) the service of a complaint against an  
156 agency returnable to a court which seeks to enforce or implement legal  
157 relief or a legal right; or (C) the agency's consideration of action to  
158 enforce or implement legal relief or a legal right.

159 (10) "Freedom of Information Act" means this chapter.

160 [(11) "Governmental function" means the administration or  
161 management of a program of a public agency, which program has been  
162 authorized by law to be administered or managed by a person, where  
163 (A) the person receives funding from the public agency for  
164 administering or managing the program, (B) the public agency is  
165 involved in or regulates to a significant extent such person's  
166 administration or management of the program, whether or not such  
167 involvement or regulation is direct, pervasive, continuous or day-to-  
168 day, and (C) the person participates in the formulation of governmental  
169 policies or decisions in connection with the administration or  
170 management of the program and such policies or decisions bind the  
171 public agency. "Governmental function" shall not include the mere  
172 provision of goods or services to a public agency without the delegated  
173 responsibility to administer or manage a program of a public agency.]

174 [(12)] (11) "Electronic equipment" means any technology that  
175 facilitates real-time public access to meetings, including, but not limited  
176 to, telephonic, video or other conferencing platforms.

177 [(13)] (12) "Electronic transmission" means any form or process of  
178 communication not directly involving the physical transfer of paper or  
179 another tangible medium, which (A) is capable of being retained,  
180 retrieved and reproduced by the recipient, and (B) is retrievable in paper  
181 form by the recipient.

182 Sec. 5. Section 1-218 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
183 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

184 (a) For purposes of this section, "governmental function" means the  
185 administration or management of a program of a public agency, which  
186 program has been authorized by law to be administered or managed by  
187 a person, where (1) the person receives funding from the public agency  
188 for administering or managing the program, (2) the public agency is  
189 involved in or regulates to a significant extent such person's  
190 administration or management of the program, whether or not such  
191 involvement or regulation is direct, pervasive, continuous or day-to-  
192 day, and (3) the person participates in the formulation of governmental  
193 policies or decisions in connection with the administration or  
194 management of the program and such policies or decisions bind the  
195 public agency. "Governmental function" does not include the mere  
196 provision of goods or services to a public agency without the delegated  
197 responsibility to administer or manage a program of a public agency.

198 (b) Each contract in excess of two million five hundred thousand  
199 dollars between a public agency and a person for the performance of a  
200 governmental function shall (1) provide that the public agency is  
201 entitled to receive a copy of records and files related to the performance  
202 of the governmental function, and (2) indicate that such records and files  
203 are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and may be disclosed by  
204 the public agency pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. No  
205 request to inspect or copy such records or files shall be valid unless the  
206 request is made to the public agency in accordance with the Freedom of  
207 Information Act. Any complaint by a person who is denied the right to  
208 inspect or copy such records or files shall be brought to the Freedom of  
209 Information Commission in accordance with the provisions of sections

210 1-205, as amended by this act, and 1-206.

211 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 1-211 of the general statutes is  
212 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
213 *1, 2026*):

214 (b) Except as otherwise provided by state statute, no public agency  
215 shall enter into a contract with, or otherwise obligate itself to, any person  
216 if such contract or obligation impairs the right of the public under the  
217 Freedom of Information Act to inspect or copy the agency's nonexempt  
218 public records existing on-line in, or stored on a device or medium used  
219 in connection with, a computer system owned, leased or otherwise used  
220 by the agency. [in the course of its governmental functions.]

221 Sec. 7. Subsection (d) of section 1-225 of the general statutes is  
222 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
223 *1, 2026*):

224 (d) (1) Notice of each special meeting of every public agency, except  
225 for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any committee  
226 thereof, shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours before the  
227 meeting to which such notice refers on the public agency's Internet web  
228 site, if available, and given not less than twenty-four hours prior to the  
229 time of such meeting by filing a notice of the time and place thereof in  
230 the office of the Secretary of the State for any such public agency of the  
231 state, in the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency  
232 of a political subdivision of the state and in the office of the clerk of each  
233 municipal member for any multitown district or agency.

234 (2) The secretary or clerk shall cause any notice received under this  
235 section to be posted in his or her office, and in the case of a notice of a  
236 public agency of the state filed with the secretary, on the Secretary of the  
237 State's Internet web site. Such notice shall be given not less than twenty-  
238 four hours prior to the time of the special meeting; provided, in case of  
239 emergency, except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or  
240 any committee thereof, any such special meeting may be held without  
241 complying with the foregoing requirement for the filing of notice but a

242 copy of the minutes of every such emergency special meeting  
243 adequately setting forth the nature of the emergency and the  
244 proceedings occurring at such meeting shall be filed with the Secretary  
245 of the State, the clerk of such political subdivision, or the clerk of each  
246 municipal member of such multitown district or agency, as the case may  
247 be, not later than seventy-two hours following the holding of such  
248 meeting. The notice shall specify the time and place of the special  
249 meeting and the business to be transacted. No other business shall be  
250 considered at such meetings by such public agency.

251 (3) In addition, such written notice shall be delivered by electronic  
252 transmission or by mail to the usual place of abode of each member of  
253 the public agency so that the same is received prior to such special  
254 meeting. The requirement of delivery of such written notice may be  
255 dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the meeting  
256 convenes files with the clerk or secretary of the public agency a written  
257 waiver of delivery of such notice. Such waiver may be given by  
258 [telegram] electronic transmission or by mail. The requirement of  
259 delivery of such written notice may also be dispensed with as to any  
260 member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes.

261 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any agency  
262 from adopting more stringent notice requirements.

263 Sec. 8. Subdivision (1) of section 4d-30 of the general statutes is  
264 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
265 *1, 2026*):

266 (1) "Contract" means a contract for state agency information system  
267 or telecommunication system facilities, equipment or services, which is  
268 awarded pursuant to this chapter or [subsection (e) of section 1-205,]  
269 subsection (c) of section 1-211, [subsection (b) of section 1-212, section 4-  
270 5,] subsection (a) of section 10a-151b [,] or subsection (b) of section 19a-  
271 110.

272 Sec. 9. Section 4d-47 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
273 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

274 With respect to any state employee whose position is eliminated or  
275 who is laid off as a result of any contract or amendment to a contract  
276 which is subject to the provisions of this chapter and [subsection (e) of  
277 section 1-205,] subsection (c) of section 1-211, [subsection (b) of section  
278 1-212, section 4-5,] section 4a-50, 4a-51, subsection (b) of section 4a-57,  
279 subsection (a) of section 10a-151b [,] or subsection (b) of section 19a-110,  
280 or any subcontract for work under such contract or amendment, (1) the  
281 contractor shall hire the employee, upon application by the employee,  
282 unless the employee is hired by a subcontractor of the contractor, or (2)  
283 the employee may transfer to any vacant position in state service for  
284 which such employee is qualified, to the extent allowed under the  
285 provisions of existing collectively bargained agreements and the general  
286 statutes. If the contractor or any such subcontractor hires any such state  
287 employee and does not provide the employee with fringe benefits which  
288 are equivalent to, or greater than, the fringe benefits that the employee  
289 would have received in state service, the state shall, for two years after  
290 the employee terminates from state service, provide to the employee  
291 either (A) the same benefits that such employee received from the state,  
292 or (B) compensation in an amount which represents the difference in the  
293 value of the fringe benefits that such employee received when in state  
294 service and the fringe benefits that such employee receives from the  
295 contractor or subcontractor.

296 Sec. 10. Section 4d-48 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
297 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

298 No contract or subcontract for state agency information system or  
299 telecommunication system facilities, equipment or services may be  
300 awarded to any business entity or individual pursuant to this chapter or  
301 [subsection (e) of section 1-205,] subsection (c) of section 1-211,  
302 [subsection (b) of section 1-212, section 4-5,] subsection (a) of section 10a-  
303 151b [,] or subsection (b) of section 19a-110, if such business entity or  
304 individual previously had a contract with the state or a state agency to  
305 provide information system or telecommunication system facilities,  
306 equipment or services and such prior contract was finally terminated by  
307 the state or a state agency within the previous five years for the reason

308 that such business entity or individual failed to perform or otherwise  
309 breached a material obligation of the contract related to information  
310 system or telecommunication system facilities, equipment or services. If  
311 the termination of any such previous contract is contested in an  
312 arbitration or judicial proceeding, the termination shall not be final until  
313 the conclusion of such arbitration or judicial proceeding. If the fact-  
314 finder determines, or a settlement stipulates, that the contractor failed  
315 to perform or otherwise breached a material obligation of the contract  
316 related to information system or telecommunication system facilities,  
317 equipment or services, any award of a contract pursuant to said chapter  
318 or sections during the pendency of such arbitration or proceeding shall  
319 be rescinded and the bar provided in this section shall apply to such  
320 business entity or individual.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-205(e)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-210(d)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-212(g)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-200
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-218
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-211(b)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-225(d)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	4d-30(1)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	4d-47
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	4d-48

**GOS**      *Joint Favorable*