
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 325

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE CONCERNING MASS REQUESTS UNDER THE ACT.

SUMMARY

This bill adds school employees to the list of individuals covered by the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA) limitation on a public agency disclosing home addresses (see BACKGROUND). In doing so, it:

1. prohibits an employing public agency from disclosing, under FOIA, a school employee's home address from the public agency's personnel, medical, or similar files and
2. allows the school employees to request address confidentiality from other public agencies (and from their public agency employer with respect to records besides those described above) by following existing law's procedures for other covered individuals, including by submitting to the agency a written request with his or her business address (see BACKGROUND).

The bill's provisions apply to school employees who are teachers, substitute teachers, administrators, school superintendents, school counselors, school psychologists, social workers, school nurses, physicians, paraeducators, or coaches employed by a local or regional board of education (BOE), or anyone who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public school, under a contract with a BOE.

Additionally, the bill establishes a task force to study the use of artificial intelligence to make mass FOIA requests and whether changes in law are needed to assist public agencies with these requests. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Government

Oversight Committee by January 1, 2027. The task force ends on that date or when it submits the report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision establishing the task force is effective upon passage.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

Under the bill, the task force has the following four ex officio members, or their designees: the Freedom of Information Commission’s executive director, Office of Policy and Management secretary, chief information officer, and chief court administrator. The task force also includes the eight appointed members shown in the table below.

Table: Appointed Task Force Members

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointments</i>	<i>Required Qualifications</i>
House speaker	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents an organization representing municipalities • Expertise in open government issues
Senate president pro tempore	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attorney • A journalist
House majority leader	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in artificial intelligence
Senate majority leader	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of a collective bargaining organization representing teachers
House minority leader	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents an organization representing small towns
Senate minority leader	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unspecified

Under the bill, all initial appointments must be made within 30 days of the bill’s passage, and the appointed task force members may be legislators. Appointing authorities must fill any vacancies. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must pick the task force’s chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the first meeting within 60 days of the bill’s passage. The Government Oversight Committee’s administrative staff must serve as the task force’s administrative staff.

BACKGROUND

Covered Individuals

Under existing law, the following public officials and employees are covered by FOIA's home address disclosure limitation:

1. federal judges and magistrates, Connecticut judges and family support magistrates, judicial branch employees, prosecutors, public defenders, public defender social workers, and Division of Criminal Justice inspectors;
2. firefighters, state marshals, and police officers;
3. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services employees who provide direct patient care, and employees of the departments of Correction and Children and Families; and
4. members and employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

Requests for Home Address Confidentiality

Under existing law, an agency that receives a FOIA request about a covered individual who requested address confidentiality must redact the person's home address only from records provided in response to a request that specifically names him or her. Additionally, the agency must make reasonable efforts to redact the person's address from (1) an existing list derived from a readily accessible electronic database and (2) any list that the agency voluntarily creates in response to a disclosure request. The law permits disclosure of a covered individual's residential address in any other type of record (other than in their employer's personnel, medical, or similar files, as described above).

The disclosure prohibition also does not apply to a home address in (1) documents eligible to be recorded in municipal land records; (2) any list required by the state's election laws (such as voter registry lists, petition forms, and logs of absentee ballot applications); or (3) municipal grand lists.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 8 Nay 4 (03/17/2026)