
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 384

AN ACT REDEFINING "EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCY" FOR PURPOSES OF DATA GOVERNANCE.

SUMMARY

This bill broadens the definition of “executive branch agency” and clarifies carve-outs within the definition, which impact executive branch data sharing and management. The law generally authorizes the state’s chief data officer (CDO) to direct executive branch agencies on data use, management, sharing, coordination, and formulation of the state data plan, and requires them to meet certain related requirements.

Under current law, the “executive branch agencies” subject to these provisions are 24 of the 25 statutorily defined executive branch departments (excluding the Board of Regents for Higher Education).

The bill extends these provisions to cover (1) each department, board, council, commission, institution, or other Executive Department agency (with any entity included by law within a given department deemed a division of that department); (2) two of the six offices of the constitutional officers (the offices of governor and lieutenant governor); and (3) all executive department agency operations funded by the General Fund or a special fund. It excludes constituent units of the state higher education system (UConn and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, which includes the Connecticut State University System, Connecticut State Community College, and Charter Oak State College).

The bill generally requires a newly covered agency to:

1. designate an employee as its agency data officer,
2. consult with the CDO on the state data plan,

3. take information technology-related actions and initiatives consistent with the state data plan,
4. conduct an annual inventory of its high value data, and
5. develop an open data access plan.

The bill also subjects the newly covered agencies to a CDO review, in consultation with the attorney general and their own legal counsel, on the legal obstacles to sharing their high value data. By law, “high value data” is data that the department head determines:

1. is critical to an executive branch agency’s operation;
2. can (a) increase executive branch agency accountability and responsiveness, (b) improve public knowledge about the agency and its operations, (c) further the agency’s core mission, or (d) create economic opportunity;
3. is frequently requested by the public;
4. responds to a need and demand as identified by the agency through public consultation; or
5. is used to satisfy any legislative or other reporting requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/11/2026)