



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 405**

*January Session, 2001*

Substitute House Bill No. 6917

*House of Representatives, April 23, 2001*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. KNOPP of the 137th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELOCATION OF OFFICES FOR STATE AGENCIES.**

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) No state agency in the executive branch that  
2 has fifty or more employees in its primary administrative office may  
3 relocate said office, unless (1) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
4 Management submits a report to the speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate, showing  
6 the cost savings or improvement in services to the public from such  
7 proposed relocation and containing a cost-benefit analysis of the  
8 relocation, and (2) the General Assembly approves the proposed  
9 relocation by a majority vote of each house.
- 10 (b) Not later than five days after receipt of any such report, the  
11 speaker and the president pro tempore shall submit the report to the  
12 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance

13 of matters relating to government administration and to the joint  
14 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
15 matters relating to said state agency. Said committees shall jointly  
16 conduct a public hearing on the report and recommend approval or  
17 disapproval of the relocation to the House of Representatives and the  
18 Senate. The General Assembly may approve the relocation by a  
19 majority vote of each house or may reject the relocation by a majority  
20 vote of either house, before adjournment of the regular session of the  
21 General Assembly during which the report is submitted. If the General  
22 Assembly is not in session when the report is submitted, the General  
23 Assembly shall approve or reject the relocation before adjournment of  
24 the next regular session of the General Assembly or before the  
25 adjournment of a special session convened before said next regular  
26 session for the purpose of considering said report.

27 (c) The cost-benefit analysis in the report required in subsection (a)  
28 of this section shall address the following factors concerning the  
29 proposed relocation of state agency offices: (1) The financial costs and  
30 savings of the relocation, (2) the improvement or reduction in the  
31 quality of state services to the public from the relocation, (3) ease of  
32 public access to the current and relocated offices, (4) hardship to  
33 employees because of the relocation, (5) convenience and efficiency of  
34 employees in meeting with officials from multiple state agencies in  
35 close proximity in the capital region, and (6) the extent to which the  
36 agency is a resource to the capital region.

37 (d) The provisions of this section shall not apply in the event of an  
38 emergency, as declared in writing by the Governor, that requires a  
39 relocation due to an imminent threat to the safety of state employees  
40 and which can not be rectified without the relocation.

41 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

**GAE** *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Potential Minimal Cost

**Affected Agencies:** Legislative Management, Office of Policy and Management

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

**State Impact:**

This bill requires legislative approval for relocation of certain executive branch offices. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is required to submit a cost analysis to the General Assembly with a timely public hearing by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee to follow. The General Assembly may approve or reject the proposed move.

It is anticipated that OPM will be able to submit a cost analysis report to the General Assembly with no additional cost incurred since the agency already compiles, reviews and submits annual reports regarding facilities management. There exists in OPM a Bureau of Real Property Management that prepares long-range plans regarding the use of state property and evaluates the efficiency of each agency's use of state property. The bill would result in a minimal workload increase to the agency.

It is anticipated that if an action by the General Assembly in regards to an executive branch office move were to be taken, then it would occur during a normally scheduled session day. To the extent that legislators are required to make additional trips to the Capitol as a result of a public hearing(s) a potential minimal cost may result due to mileage reimbursement (currently, 30 cents per mile). However, considering that legislators make considerable trips to the Capitol during the session it is anticipated that any increased costs due to mileage reimbursement can be handled within the budgetary resources of Legislative Management.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6917

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELOCATION OF OFFICES FOR STATE AGENCIES.**

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires legislative approval for relocation of certain executive branch offices, other than in the event of an emergency. After receiving a report from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) on the move, legislative leaders must refer it to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee and the committee with jurisdiction over the agency. The committees hold a public hearing and make a recommendation to the entire General Assembly. A majority vote in favor in each house is necessary for relocation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

**APPLICABILITY**

The bill applies to the proposed move of an executive branch agency's primary administrative office with 50 or more employees. It does not apply when the governor issues a written declaration that an emergency exists requiring an agency to move because of an imminent threat to the employees' safety that can be remedied only by the relocation.

**OPM REPORT**

Prior to any relocation covered by the bill, the OPM secretary must submit a report to the House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore with a cost-benefit analysis. The analysis must address the following with respect to the proposed relocation:

1. its financial costs and savings,
2. the improvement or reduction in the quality of the agency's services to the public,

3. public accessibility to the current and proposed offices,
4. hardship on agency employees,
5. convenience and efficiency for meetings of employees with staff of other state agencies close to Hartford, and
6. the extent to which the agency is a resource to the capital region.

**LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES**

Within five days after they receive the OPM report, the speaker and president must refer it to the GAE Committee and the committee with jurisdiction over the agency. The committees jointly conduct a public hearing on the report and recommend approval or rejection of the move to the House and Senate.

Before a regular session adjourns, the General Assembly may approve the relocation by majority vote of each house. Failure to act or rejection by either house results in disapproval.

If the General Assembly is not in session when OPM issues the report, it has until adjournment of the next regular session adjourns to consider and vote on the relocation or it can convene a special session to do so.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 18    Nay 1