

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5124,  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS AND  
ACCESS TO RESTRICTED RECORDS IN THE STATE ARCHIVES.**

**February 19, 2014**

The Freedom of Information (“FOI”) Commission supports House Bill 5124 which requires the preservation of records of historical value and lifts restrictions on access to government and medical records after a certain amount of time has passed.

Specifically, House Bill 5124 (1) requires the retention of any record transferred to the state archives (as established in Conn. Gen. Stat. §11-1c) that the State Archivist determines to be a record of historical value and vests title to such record in the state archives; (2) lifts any prohibition against viewing a government record, other than a medical record, that has been deposited in the state archives, 75 years after the creation of such record; and (3) lifts any prohibition against viewing a medical record that has been deposited in the state archives, 50 years after the death of the individual who is the subject of such record.

Providing greater access to government and medical records deposited at the state archives, after statutorily prescribed periods of time have passed, increases transparency in government. It also ensures that the broadest audience of citizens have access to rich and diverse sources of Connecticut’s documentary heritage.

The preservation and availability of such records is essential to understanding the historical context that government activities, functions and policies have on the democracy, history and culture of Connecticut and its people.

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