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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 247

#### ***AN ACT ELIMINATING AND MODIFYING CERTAIN REPORTING AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND REPEALING OBSOLETE PROVISIONS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill makes several unrelated changes affecting the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Among other things, it:

1. shifts, from individual agencies to DAS, the duty to report annually to the State Bond Commission and the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee on the status of certain public works projects;
2. eliminates a requirement that DAS, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary and the State Properties Review Board (SPRB), adopt regulations concerning state agency leases; and
3. (a) eliminates a report by DAS on state agency information technology initiatives, folding most of the report's requirements into the department's annual information and telecommunications systems strategic plan and (b) eliminates some of the plan's requirements.

The bill also eliminates an obsolete requirement that DAS report to the Appropriations and Education committees on purchasing requests it received from the constituent units of higher education (UConn, the Connecticut State University System, regional community-technical colleges, and Charter Oak State College). The constituent units have their own purchasing authority and do not make purchases through DAS (§ 6).

Lastly, the bill repeals provisions concerning the awarding and review of contracts for information or telecommunication system facilities, equipment, or services that were entered into pursuant to a request for proposals (RFP) issued in 1997. No contracts were ever awarded pursuant to this RFP (§ 7).

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

### **§ 1 — CAPITAL PROJECT REPORTS**

The bill requires DAS to report annually to the State Bond Commission secretary and the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee concerning the completion or acceptance during the preceding year of each public works construction project administered by DAS's Division of Construction Services that (1) costs more than \$10,000 and (2) was funded from the proceeds of state general obligation bonds. The bill does not specify a reporting date.

The report's contents are the same as under current law. It must include, for each project, (1) the estimated or actual cost; (2) the amount, if any, required to be held in retainage and the reason for the retainage; and (3) the amount of unexpended bond proceeds. It may include recommendations on how to use the unexpended funds. The bill eliminates requirements that the chief administrative officers of state agencies for whom DAS administers these projects report this information (1) to the bond commission within 90 days of completing or accepting the project and (2) annually by January 1 to the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee cochairpersons.

### **§ 2 — LEASING REGULATIONS**

The bill eliminates a requirement that DAS, in consultation with the OPM secretary and SPRB, adopt regulations establishing the procedures DAS, OPM, and SPRB use in leasing state offices, space, and other facilities. Under current law, these regulations must require several actions by the DAS commissioner and OPM secretary concerning state agency leases and lease requests. The bill instead

establishes these requirements in law.

### **§§ 3 & 7 — INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Under current law, the DAS commissioner must annually submit a report on information technology by October 1 to the governor; OPM secretary; and the Appropriations, Government Administration and Elections, and Program Review and Investigations committees. Among other things, the report must address state agency technology projects, information and telecommunication system expenditures, opportunities for efficiencies or cost reductions, and executive branch agency efforts to use e-government solutions to deliver state services and conduct state programs. The bill eliminates the report and instead requires the DAS commissioner to incorporate most of its contents into the state's information and telecommunications systems strategic plan that he must develop annually. (The provision concerning system expenditures is already required for the strategic plan.)

By law, each state agency must submit to the DAS commissioner all plans, documents, and other information he requests for developing the plan. The bill specifies that agencies must do this annually by August 1. It also requires the DAS commissioner to submit the updated strategic plan to the OPM secretary annually by September 15.

The bill eliminates requirements that the strategic plan include (1) a level of information systems and telecommunication planning for all state agencies and operations throughout the state that ensures effective and efficient utilization of, and access to, the state's information and telecommunications resources and (2) specific components associated with this planning. It also eliminates a requirement that the DAS commissioner, in carrying out the above requirements, consult with representatives of business associations, consumer organizations, and nonprofit human services providers.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/14/2014)