

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 14-202—sSB 247

Government Administration and Elections Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act 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 secretary 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. 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.

The act 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 no longer make purchases through DAS (§ 6).

Additionally, the act 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 under this RFP (§ 7).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 1 — CAPITAL PROJECT REPORTS

The act requires DAS to report annually, beginning January 1, 2015, 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) has an estimated cost of more than \$10,000 and (2) received any funding from the proceeds of state general obligation bonds.

The report's contents are the same as under prior law. It must include, for each project, the (1) actual cost if known, otherwise the estimated cost; (2) amount, if

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any, required to be held in retainage and the reason for the retainage; and (3) amount of unexpended bond proceeds. It may include recommendations on how to use the unexpended funds. The act eliminates requirements that the chief administrative officers of state agencies for whom DAS administers these projects report this information (1) to the bond commission secretary within 90 days after completing or accepting the project and (2) annually by January 1 to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee chairpersons.

§ 2 — LEASING REGULATIONS

The act eliminates a requirement that DAS, in consultation with the OPM secretary and SPRB, adopt regulations establishing the procedures DAS, OPM, and SPRB must use in leasing state offices, space, and other facilities. It instead establishes in law the same requirements that prior law required to be established in regulations. These include, among other things, requirements that the DAS commissioner submit to the OPM secretary for his approval (1) an estimate of the gross cost and total square footage needed for each lease and (2) all leases, lease renewals, and holdover agreements.

§§ 3 & 7 — INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Under prior law, the DAS commissioner had to 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 had to 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 act 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 was 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 strategic plan. The act 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. Under existing law, the secretary must submit the updated plan to the governor and legislature annually by October 1.

The act 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 planning requirements, consult with representatives of business associations, consumer organizations, and nonprofit human services providers.

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