



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 5616

LCO No. 2922



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Notwithstanding any
2 provision of the general statutes, no public agency, as defined in
3 section 1-200 of the general statutes, may disclose, pursuant to a
4 request for a public record under the Freedom of Information Act, the
5 month or the day of any individual's date of birth on any list prepared
6 under title 9 of the general statutes.

7 (b) No information disclosed on any list prepared under title 9 of the
8 general statutes, pursuant to a request for a public record under the
9 Freedom of Information Act, to any person may be published on the
10 Internet or otherwise further disclosed by such person.

11 Sec. 2. Section 1-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the
12 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

13 (a) The meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions, as

14 defined in subdivision (6) of section 1-200, shall be open to the public.
15 The votes of each member of any such public agency upon any issue
16 before such public agency shall be reduced to writing and made
17 available for public inspection within forty-eight hours and shall also
18 be recorded in the minutes of the session at which taken. Not later than
19 seven days after the date of the session to which such minutes refer,
20 such minutes shall be available for public inspection and posted on
21 such public agency's Internet web site, if available, and on an Internet
22 web site designated by the Secretary of the State, except that no public
23 agency of a political subdivision of the state shall be required to post
24 such minutes on an Internet web site. Each public agency shall make,
25 keep and maintain a record of the proceedings of its meetings.

26 (b) Each such public agency of the state shall electronically file not
27 later than January thirty-first of each year [in] with the office of the
28 Secretary of the State, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the
29 State, the schedule of the regular meetings of such public agency for
30 the ensuing year and shall post such schedule on such public agency's
31 Internet web site, if available, and on an Internet web site designated
32 by the Secretary of the State, except that such requirements shall not
33 apply to the General Assembly, either house thereof or to any
34 committee thereof. Any other provision of the Freedom of Information
35 Act notwithstanding, the General Assembly at the commencement of
36 each regular session in the odd-numbered years, shall adopt, as part of
37 its joint rules, rules to provide notice to the public of its regular,
38 special, emergency or interim committee meetings. The chairperson or
39 secretary of any such public agency of any political subdivision of the
40 state shall file, not later than January thirty-first of each year, with the
41 clerk of such subdivision the schedule of regular meetings of such
42 public agency for the ensuing year, and no such meeting of any such
43 public agency shall be held sooner than thirty days after such schedule
44 has been filed. The chief executive officer of any multitown district or
45 agency shall file, not later than January thirty-first of each year, with
46 the Secretary of the State, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of

47 the State, and the clerk of each municipal member of such district or
48 agency, the schedule of regular meetings of such public agency for the
49 ensuing year, and no such meeting of any such public agency shall be
50 held sooner than thirty days after such schedule has been filed.

51 (c) The agenda of the regular meetings of every public agency,
52 except for the General Assembly, shall be available to the public and
53 shall be filed, not less than twenty-four hours before the meetings to
54 which they refer, (1) in such agency's regular office or place of
55 business, and (2) [in] electronically with the office of the Secretary of
56 the State, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, for any
57 such public agency of the state, in the office of the clerk of such
58 subdivision for any public agency of a political subdivision of the state
59 or in the office of the clerk of each municipal member of any
60 multitown district or agency. For any such public agency of the state,
61 such agenda shall be posted by the public agency on the public
62 agency's [and the Secretary of the State's web sites] Internet web site, if
63 available, and on an Internet web site designated by the Secretary of
64 the State. Upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of a
65 public agency present and voting, any subsequent business not
66 included in such filed agendas may be considered and acted upon at
67 such meetings.

68 (d) Notice of each special meeting of [every] each public agency,
69 except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any
70 committee thereof, shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours
71 before the meeting to which such notice refers on the public agency's
72 Internet web site, if available, and given not less than twenty-four
73 hours prior to the time of such meeting by filing a notice of the time
74 and place thereof [in] with the office of the Secretary of the State for
75 any such public agency of the state, in the office of the clerk of such
76 subdivision for any public agency of a political subdivision of the state
77 and in the office of the clerk of each municipal member for any
78 multitown district or agency, except that any such notice filed with the
79 Secretary of the State shall be filed electronically. Any notice filed by a

80 public agency of the state under this section shall be posted by such
81 public agency, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, on
82 an Internet web site designated by the Secretary of the State. The
83 [secretary or] clerk of a political subdivision of the state or the clerk of
84 each municipal member of a multitown district or agency, as the case
85 may be, shall cause any notice received under this section to be posted
86 in his office. Such notice shall be given not less than twenty-four hours
87 prior to the time of the special meeting; provided, in case of
88 emergency, except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or
89 any committee thereof, any such special meeting may be held without
90 complying with the foregoing requirement for the filing of notice but a
91 copy of the minutes of [every] each such emergency special meeting
92 adequately setting forth the nature of the emergency and the
93 proceedings occurring at such meeting shall be filed with the Secretary
94 of the State, the clerk of such political subdivision, or the clerk of each
95 municipal member of such multitown district or agency, as the case
96 may be, except that any such copy of the minutes filed with the
97 Secretary of the State shall be filed electronically, not later than
98 seventy-two hours following the holding of such meeting. The notice
99 shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business
100 to be transacted. No other business shall be considered at such
101 meetings by such public agency. In addition, such written notice shall
102 be delivered to the usual place of abode of each member of the public
103 agency so that the same is received prior to such special meeting. The
104 requirement of delivery of such written notice may be dispensed with
105 as to any member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes
106 files with the clerk or secretary of the public agency a written waiver of
107 delivery of such notice. Such waiver may be given by [telegram] means
108 of electronic communication. The requirement of delivery of such
109 written notice may also be dispensed with as to any member who is
110 actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes. Nothing in this
111 section shall be construed to prohibit any agency from adopting more
112 stringent notice requirements.

113 (e) No member of the public shall be required, as a condition to
114 attendance at a meeting of any such body, to register the member's
115 name, or furnish other information, or complete a questionnaire or
116 otherwise fulfill any condition precedent to the member's attendance.

117 (f) A public agency may hold an executive session, as defined in
118 subdivision (6) of section 1-200, upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds
119 of the members of such body present and voting, taken at a public
120 meeting and stating the reasons for such executive session, as defined
121 in section 1-200.

122 (g) In determining the time within which or by when a notice,
123 agenda, record of votes or minutes of a special meeting or an
124 emergency special meeting are required to be filed under this section,
125 Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and any day on which the office of
126 the agency, the Secretary of the State or the clerk of the applicable
127 political subdivision or the clerk of each municipal member of any
128 multitown district or agency, as the case may be, is closed, shall be
129 excluded.

130 (h) Any provision of this section requiring a public agency of the
131 state to file with the Secretary of the State any meeting schedule,
132 agenda, notice of special meeting or minutes of an emergency special
133 meeting shall be deemed to require such public agency of the state to
134 post, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, such
135 meeting schedule, agenda, notice of special meeting or minutes of an
136 emergency special meeting on an Internet web site designated by the
137 Secretary of the State. The Secretary of the State shall designate an
138 Internet web site for the purposes of this section.

139 Sec. 3. Section 2-7 of the general statutes is repealed and the
140 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

141 (a) Whenever the Governor, the members of the General Assembly
142 or the president pro tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the
143 House of Representatives call a special session of the General

144 Assembly, the Secretary of the State shall give notice thereof either by
145 (1) mailing a true copy of the call of such special session, by first class
146 mail, evidenced by a certificate of mailing, to each member of the
147 House of Representatives and of the Senate at his or her address as it
148 appears upon the records of said secretary not less than ten nor more
149 than fifteen days prior to the date of convening of such special session,
150 [or by] (2) causing a true copy of the call of such special session to be
151 delivered [to each member] by a state marshal, constable, state
152 policeman or indifferent person to each such member at least twenty-
153 four hours prior to the time of convening of such special session, or (3)
154 sending an electronic copy of the call of such special session to the
155 official legislative electronic mail address of each such member at least
156 seventy-two hours prior to the time of convening of such special
157 session.

158 (b) Whenever the Secretary of the State is required to reconvene the
159 General Assembly pursuant to article third of the amendments to the
160 Constitution of Connecticut, said secretary shall give notice thereof
161 either by (1) mailing a true copy of the call of such reconvened session,
162 by first class mail, evidenced by a certificate of mailing, to each
163 member of the House of Representatives and of the Senate at his or her
164 address as it appears upon the records of said secretary not less than
165 five days prior to the date of convening of such reconvened session, [or
166 by] (2) causing a true copy of the call of such reconvened session to be
167 delivered [to each member] by a state marshal, constable, state
168 policeman or indifferent person to each such member at least twenty-
169 four hours prior to the time of convening of such reconvened session,
170 or (3) sending an electronic copy of the call of such reconvened session
171 to the official legislative electronic mail address of each such member
172 at least seventy-two hours prior to the time of convening of such
173 reconvened session.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	1-225
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	2-7

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) redact the month and day of an individual's date of birth when a list prepared under title 9 of the general statutes is disclosed pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and prohibit publication of any such list on the Internet web site by the person having requested such list pursuant to said act, (2) require that certain meeting notices are electronically filed with the Secretary of the State and posted on an Internet web site designated by said Secretary, and (3) allow for notice of special and reconvened sessions to be sent electronically.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]