OLR Bill Analysis
HB 5110

AN ACT APPLYING THE SECURITY EXEMPTION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TO THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY.

SUMMARY

This bill modifies the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to authorize the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) and the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) executive directors to determine whether disclosing CAA or CPA records, respectively, would pose a safety risk. Under current law, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner makes this determination for records held by any executive branch agency, including CAA and CPA.

By law, records are exempt from disclosure under FOIA if reasonable grounds exist to believe that their release could pose a safety risk, including harm to anyone or any government-owned or -leased institution, facility, or equipment. Such records include security manuals, architectural and engineering drawings, security systems' operational specifications, training manuals, and emergency plans.

Existing law requires (1) executive branch agencies to notify DAS when they receive requests for such records and (2) DAS to consult with the agency head before making a final decision. For CAA and CPA records, the bill makes a conforming change by exempting the CAA and CPA executive directors from the requirement to notify DAS.

Under the bill, any appeal for denial of access to CAA or CPA records under this provision of FOIA must be against the CAA or CPA executive director, as applicable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND
Related Bill

SB 869 (File 523), favorably reported by the Transportation Committee, contains a provision allowing the CAA executive director, rather than the DAS commissioner, to determine if reasonable grounds exist to believe that disclosure of CAA records could pose a safety risk.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 12  Nay 4  (04/01/2019)