OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 6876

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS BY USING A HAND-HELD SCANNER.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits public agencies from charging a fee under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for copying public records using a handheld scanner. Currently, public agencies may establish their own fee structure, up to a maximum of $20 for each time an individual copies public records at the agency using a handheld scanner.

FOIA currently defines “handheld scanner” as a battery operated electronic scanning device that (1) leaves no mark or impression on the public record and (2) does not unreasonably interfere with the public agency’s operation. The bill specifies that the definition includes a mobile telephone or camera.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Public Agency

Generally, under FOIA, a public agency is any (1) state, municipal, regional, or quasi-public agency or (2) entity that is the functional equivalent of such agencies (CGS § 1-200(1)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 15  Nay 0  (03/06/2019)