OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 1095 (File 738, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ETHICS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires each municipality to adopt and maintain a code of ethics by October 1, 2020. Under the bill, a municipality is deemed in compliance if it (1) adopts an ethics code before January 1, 2020, or (2) adopts by October 1, 2020, and thereafter maintains, the provisions of the model ethics code that the Office of State Ethics (OSE) must establish.

The bill requires OSE, in consultation with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Connecticut Council of Small Towns, to (1) develop a model municipal code of ethics that municipalities may adopt and (2) publish the model code on its website by January 1, 2020. It authorizes OSE to update the model code as it deems necessary.

Each municipality must submit a notice to OSE by January 15, 2021, certifying whether it has complied with the bill’s requirements and providing a copy of its code. The bill requires OSE to submit a report to the Government Administration and Elections committee on each municipality’s compliance status by January 1, 2022.

The bill authorizes OSE, within available appropriations, to conduct a municipal ethics education program for municipal officials or employees or organizations made up of municipal members.

*Senate Amendment “A” replaces the underlying bill, which (1) required municipalities to adopt an ethics code with certain minimum provisions, (2) required OSE to hire an instructor to offer annual training on the minimum provisions beginning in 2021, and (3) appropriated an unspecified amount from the General Fund in FY 21
to fund the training.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020, except the provision on municipal code adoption is effective October 1, 2019.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea  11  Nay  4  (03/29/2019)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea  29  Nay  15  (05/13/2019)