Bill No.: HB-5110
AN ACT APPLYING THE SECURITY EXEMPTION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TO THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY.

Vote Date: 4/1/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/27/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Co-Sponsors

REASONS FOR BILL:
The bill gives the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) and Connecticut Port Authority (CPA), more discretion in determining when it may withhold certain records under FOIA. To be specific, it authorizes the respective executive directors to determine when there are reasonable grounds to believe that disclosure of CAA or CPA records may result in a safety risk and thus, may be withheld. If someone brings an appeal after being denied CAA or CPA records under this exemption, the respective executive director is the named party.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Colleen Murphy, Executive Director, Freedom of Information Commission (FOI): The FOI commission supports the bill as it relates to the Connecticut Airport Authority. The Commission believes the Executive Director, who necessarily interacts with federal law enforcement agencies regarding security concerns, both foreign and domestic, is the appropriate public official to make such determinations under Conn.Gen.Stat.1-210(b)(19).

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Kevin Dillon, Executive Director, Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA): The CAA supports the bill because it provides them with the authority to make its own determinations
about the disclosure of security-related documents. The CAA is fully committed to the appeals process that is currently in place, and they not seeking unrestricted authority to single-handedly declare documents exempt.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

**Michael Savino, President, Connecticut Council on the Freedom of Information (CCFOI):** CCFOI opposes revising the Freedom of Information Act due to the fact that it will give the CAA the ability to invoke security exemptions when denying requests without oversight from another agency. We urge the legislature to clarify the existing process and maintain uniformity.

**William Boucher, President, Connecticut Police and Fire Union:** This legislation sets a bad precedent and opens the door for further restrictions to information, not just the CAA but also within the nine other quasi-public agencies. There are no current statutes that exempt quasi-public agencies in Connecticut from withholding public documents from disclosure when the agency is concerned about sensitive information.

Reported by: Nicholas Rogers  
Committee Clerk  
Date: 4/5/19