

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6574

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS.

Vote Date: 3/29/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/10/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill makes various revisions to the Connecticut State Codes of Ethics, including adjustments to the scope of gift prohibitions, the procedure for reporting gifts, the authority of the ethics enforcement officer, activities involving consultants and independent contractors, findings of ethics violations, permitting certain filings to be electronic as well as the repeal of certain provisions. The changes found in the joint favorable substitute of this bill includes clarifying language for the definition of “confidential information.”

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director, Office of State Ethics: In the written testimony submitted to the committee, the Office of State Ethics detailed all the provisions within the bill that would make changes to the current statutory language governing state ethics. Noteworthy changes include exempting grandparents from the gift giving restrictions if the grandparent is a registered lobbyist or state contractor, extending the definition of quasi-public agency, providing a definition for the term “confidential information,” allowing the Ethics Enforcement Officer to represent the Office of State Ethics in a court of law, extending the list of prohibited activities for contractors and consultants hired by the state to apply to those employed by said contractors, and a plethora of other repeals and amendments to the current code. The Office of State Ethics supports House Bill 6574.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Peter Spain: Mr. Spain submitted testimony in which he noted his support for this bill and an array of other bills coming before the Government Administration and Election Committee.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Trevor Hoffman

Date: 03/29/2021