

Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5378

AN ACT CONCERNING THE NONDISCLOSURE OF THE RESIDENTIAL
ADDRESSES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES UNDER THE FREEDOM OF

Title: INFORMATION ACT.

Vote Date: 3/28/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will protect the addresses of employees of the Office of the Attorney General. In matters of public safety, all addresses of state employees, except those of the Attorney General's Office, are protected. Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act allows these employees information to be available to the public. Because of this, employees of the Attorney General's Office have been stalked, harassed, and even experienced vandalism.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

William Tong, Attorney General, State of Connecticut

Multiple employees of the Attorney General's Office have been victims of harassment and vandalism due to their information being accessible through Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act. The state should look to protect those who serve us. Protecting the residential addresses of employees will allow them to serve without fear and intimidation.

Public Safety Section, Office of the Attorney General, State of Connecticut

The attorneys in this section represent public servants throughout the state. Many attorneys have been victims of harassment and stalking for being associated with certain cases. Attorneys are escorted by state police due to threats they receive. There is no legitimate purpose to have addresses made known to the public. Protection of residential addresses will protect attorneys in the Office of the Attorney General.

Colleen Murphy, Executive Director, Freedom of Information Commission, State of Connecticut

The Commission urges the committee to reject HB No 5378. The General Assembly voted to limit restricting addresses on voter registration list in 2012. This is because the disclosure of certain addresses is difficult and ignores public policy in Title IX. Section 1-217 is not the solution it is thought to be since it protects the addresses of protected employees in personnel, medical, or similar files. Residential addresses are already easily accessible to public for free on the internet or through commercial services.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Association of Connecticut Assistant Attorneys General, AFT-CT Local 6574

Employees of Attorney General's Office represent those that are protected by state statute and have their addresses protected. Employees in the Attorney General's Office interact with the public in many different capacities. Some interactions are negative and result in threats, stalking, and harassment. HB No 5378 will allow employees to feel safe while enforcing and defending the law.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Godbout

Mr. Godbout expressed opposition to the bill due to disagreeing with the virtual procedure followed by the CGA for public hearings.

Reported by: Grace Carlos

Date: 3-28-22