
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1186

AN ACT CONCERNING DATA GOVERNANCE, REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS INVOLVING THE CONNECTICUT PRESCHOOL THROUGH TWENTY AND WORKFORCE INFORMATION NETWORK AND APPROVAL OF A SALE OF PROPERTY BY THE TOWN OF WINDHAM.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes in the laws governing executive branch data sharing and management. It allows the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary to create advisory boards to assist with required data governance activities (i.e., developing a program to access, link, analyze, and share data maintained by executive agencies and to respond to data queries).

Current law authorizes the state's chief data officer (CDO) to direct executive branch agencies (excluding the Board of Regents for Higher Education) on data use, management, sharing, coordination, and formulation of the state data plan and transparency plans. The bill expands the definition of "executive branch agency" to those agencies with a department head. So, the state data plan and agency data officer requirements (see BACKGROUND) would also apply to the offices of Early Childhood, Military Affairs, Health Strategy, and Workforce Strategy and the housing department.

Under existing law, CP20 WIN (Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network) longitudinally matches and links the data of participating state agencies and other organizations to evaluate and inform policy and practice for education, workforce, and supportive service efforts. Longitudinal means data tracking students through time.

The bill limits requests for any public records or files under the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to the agency that originated the records or files, including data elements shared between participating

agencies under a CP20 WIN sharing agreement. It requires a participating agency receiving a FOIA request for records or files that did not originate from the agency to:

1. promptly refer the request to the originating agency to respond to it directly; and
2. notify, in writing, the requestor about the referral, including the originating agency's name, address, and telephone number and the referral date (§ 4).

By July 1, 2023, and notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the bill also requires the OPM secretary to approve a proposed purchase and sales agreement between the town of Windham and Eastern Connecticut State University for the former Kramer Middle School building, located at 322 Prospect Street, to the university as part of its capital plan (§ 5).

Lastly, the bill eliminates a CDO annual reporting requirement on executive branch high value data sharing methods (§ 3). It also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023, except the provision about the Windham property sale is effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND

Executive Branch Agency Data

By law, executive branch agencies must designate one employee as the agency data officer. The data officers serve as the agency point of contact for inquiries, requests, or concerns regarding data access. Every two years, the CDO, in consultation with the data officers and executive branch agency heads, must update the state data plan that governs the agencies' information technology-related actions and initiatives.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/27/2023)