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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 5407

#### ***AN ACT DEFINING "DEPENDENT CHILD" FOR PURPOSES OF THE STATE CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CONCERNING THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION OVER NONRESIDENTS BY THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill defines a “dependent child” in the state’s Code of Ethics for Public Officials as a covered official’s son, daughter, or stepchild who qualifies as the official’s dependent child under federal tax law. Generally, to qualify as a dependent child under federal tax law, a child must (1) share a principal residence with the official; (2) be under age 19 or 24, if a student; (3) have provided for less than half of their own support for the year; and (4) not have filed a joint return with their spouse.

Although the Code of Ethics currently does not define a “dependent child,” under it public officials have a substantial conflict of interest if their dependent child will get a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct monetary loss because of their official activity (unless it accrues to the child as a member of a profession, occupation, or group to no greater extent than other members of that profession, occupation, or group) (CGS § 1-85). Officials must also include certain information about their dependent children in the statements of financial interest they must file (CGS § 1-83).

The bill also specifies that the Office of State Ethics’ (OSE) long-arm jurisdiction over out-of-state residents or their agents is limited to those who (1) pay money or give anything of value to a public official or state employee to obtain a competitive advantage, solicit non-public information, or unduly influence the award of certain state contracts or (2) are, or are seeking to become, prequalified state contractors or substantial subcontractors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024, except that the provision on OSE's long-arm jurisdiction is effective upon passage.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/15/2024)