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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 255**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROVISIONS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires each municipality, by October 1, 2025, to adopt a conflict of interest provision for its elected and appointed officials, officers, and employees. The provision must (1) either define a “conflict of interest” or adopt the model definition in the bill and (2) specify what actions the municipality must take when a conflict of interest exists. However, the requirement does not apply to a municipality that has established a conflict of interest policy before January 1, 2025.

The bill requires each municipality, by January 15, 2026, to submit a notice to the Office of State Ethics (OSE) certifying whether the municipality has adopted the required provision or is exempt from the requirement because it adopted one before 2025. The notice, which must be submitted as directed by OSE, must include a copy of the adopted provision. OSE must publish a copy of each municipality’s conflict of interest provision on its website.

Starting by January 15, 2026, the bill requires each municipality to publish its adopted conflict of interest provision on its website in an easily accessible location. If the provision is part of the municipality’s established code of ethics, publishing the code on the website satisfies the requirement. If the municipality does not have a website, it must make the provision or code publicly available at the city or town clerk’s office.

Under the bill, a “municipality” is a town, city, or borough, including districts (e.g., fire or sewer districts, but not school districts).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

## **MODEL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DEFINITION**

The bill allows municipalities to comply with the requirement by adopting the following model definition of a conflict of interest:

“A conflict of interest exists where an official, officer or employee believes or expects that such official, officer or employee, or any person within such official’s, officer’s or employee’s immediate family, or any business associate of such official, officer or employee, or any business by which the official, officer or employee is employed, or any business with which the official, officer or employee is associated, will derive a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct monetary loss, as the case may be, by reason of such official’s, officer’s or employee’s official activity, but excluding any official action taken by the official, officer or employee in which any benefit or detriment is shared with a substantial segment of the population of the municipality.”

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15    Nay 4    (03/22/2024)