

Government Administration and Elections Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-255

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF

Title: INTEREST PROVISIONS.

Vote Date: 3/22/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The legislation aims to ensure that all municipalities have enacted conflict of interest provisions by requiring any municipalities that do not have an adopted conflict of interest provision to adopt such a provision. Municipalities must then submit a copy of such provisions to the Office of State Ethics and to have available on their internet website.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Peter Lewandowski, Office of State Ethics Executive Director:

Supports the bill as it requires at all municipalities to, at a minimum, adopt and maintain a conflict-of-interest provision. This is a universally accepted fundamental provision in any governmental ethics code. It would not put an unnecessary financial burden on municipal budgets or workload on municipal staff, as OSE would provide a model policy and legal support to any town looking to implement a new or updated policy.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Tom Swan, CCAG Executive Director:

Supports; this minor proposal will not burden towns and providing local officials with more guidance can prevent conflict in the future.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Randy Collins, CCM Associate Director of Policy:

The issue of the adoption of a conflict-of-interest provision should be left to local governments. While CCM encourages all city and towns to do so, the Office of State Ethics does not have jurisdiction over town and city governments, therefore this bill would open the door for greater oversight.

Betsy Gara, CT Council of Small Towns Executive Director:

It is unnecessary to mandate the adoption of conflict-of-interest provisions through legislation, given that municipalities have incorporated such provisions in their municipal code of ethics. COST further opposes provisions in the bill which require municipalities to submit a copy of their conflict-of-interest provisions to the State Ethics Commission, as it does not have jurisdiction over municipal ethics and therefore the requirement is overreaching.

Reported by: Lindsay de Brito

Date: 4/4/24