

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-259

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTRACTING WITH QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCIES

**Title:** UNDER THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS.

**Vote Date:** 3/15/2024

**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 prohibit certain individuals from entering contracts with quasi-public agencies unless awarded through an open public process. Namely, public officials, state employees, and immediate family of or businesses associated with aforementioned individuals. Current statutes only prohibit contracts with an executive branch state agency, and do not extend to quasi-public agencies. This would result in increased transparency in contracting where public officials and state employees are involved.

### **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

Kevin Dillon, Connecticut Airport Authority Executive Director, Supports:

The legislation would prohibit public officials, state employees, immediate family, or associated businesses from entering contracts with quasi-public agencies valued over one hundred dollars or more unless awarded through open public process. The CAA believes this is a reasonable, commonsense proposal.

Peter Lewandowski, Office of State Ethics Executive Director, Supports:

Added transparency to contracts with quasi-public agencies where public officials and state employees are involved will benefit members of the public and private contractors. Concerns that this legislation weakens quasi-public agencies' position in competitive contracting process have been exaggerated.

### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

Carl Chisem, Connecticut Employees Union Independent President, Supports:

Increased transparency in contracting benefits members of the public and private contractors. Extending the rules to quasi-public agencies would mean they may not continue to operate outside of their public expectations.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed

**Reported by: Lindsay de Brito**

**Date: 3/21/2024**