

Government Administration & Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-01432

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO PROVISIONS CONCERNING CONTRACTING, REAL ESTATE, STATE CONSTRUCTION

Title: SERVICES AND PROBATE COURT NOTIFICATIONS.

Vote Date: 3/26/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/07/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration & Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

There has been a growing demand for increased efficiency within government entities. Unnecessary obstacles in bureaucracy can end up taking more time and resources than what is originally allotted. This bill seeks to implement recommendations from the Department of Administrative Services to streamline the bureaucratic process and reporting requirements. This bill seeks to update and modernize existing statutes to increase efficiency as well as eliminating redundant statutes and practices that are no longer relevant for DAS.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language reduces the provision that would increase the threshold for DAS projects requiring SPRB oversight. This was removed at the request of the SPRB as they stated that they are a watchdog entity and should be given expanded oversight rather than a reduction. The language also removed the provisions that require DAS to post notices on its website rather than newspapers. It also removes provision that removed the requirement for DAS to receive conservatorship notices from probate court.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Michelle Gilman, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services

Section 1 not only aligns the thresholds for the constituent units of higher education and the Judicial Branch, but also removes an administrative step, which will allow DAS to move smaller contracts along faster while maintaining the appropriate levels of oversight and

accountability. Section 2 and 3 modernize real estate advertising by requiring these notices be posted on the DAS website instead. Section 4 aligns the thresholds for state construction services selection panels which is needed to ensure our process of using a three-member panel for on-call contract selections continues to be appropriate. Section 11 eliminates quarterly reporting on two projects, one of which is complete and operational, and the second is the facility of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner who is working directly with the Office of Policy and Management. DAS is a third party to these discussions and not well positioned to provide updates to the legislature on this topic. Section 12 eliminates outdated, pandemic-related reporting requirements and will allow the DAS procurement team to dedicate its personnel resources on statewide contracting and internal process improvement. Sections 5-10 remove the requirement that the DAS Commissioner receive Probate Court conservatorship notices. The DAS Commissioner has no standing in conservatorship cases and has no reason to receive these notices.

Eric Coleman, State Properties Review Board

With the ever-increasing costs of our current environment, oversight by the SPRB should be expanded, not reduced, as proposed by DAS. The SPRB has been a watchdog entity to ensure that the State's real estate acquisitions, leases, and construction services contracts with consulting architects and engineers have been in the State's best interest and free from political patronage, cronyism, personal spoils systems, and friendship.

Beverly K. Streit, Probate Court Administrator, Office of the Probate Court Administrator

"We do note that the proposed changes in Sections 6 and Section 9 would effectively render C.G.S. § 45a-630 and C.G.S. § 45a-652 substantively moot. Currently § 45a-630 regarding petitions for guardianships of an estate of a minor and § 45a-652 regarding petitions for appointment of a conservator of estate require petitioners to state whether the minor or the respondent, respectively, is receiving or had received state assistance. If yes, then the Probate Court is required to send notice to and a copy of the petition to DAS. With recent legislative changes to the state's right to recover state assistance in certain situations, the Department's recommendation is to eliminate the Page 2 of 2 Office of the Probate Court Administrator March 7, 2025, Probate Court notice requirements. To the extent that the Probate Court's proceedings do not otherwise require such state assistance information, it may be appropriate to fully repeal these statutes."

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

No testimony in support of this Bill was provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No testimony in opposition to this Bill was provided.

Reported by: Aston Foley

Date: 4/02/2025