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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 1226

#### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE FOR CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION RECORDS PERTAINING TO TEACHING OR RESEARCH UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill exempts from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) records maintained or kept on file by or for a public higher education institution's faculty or staff that arise from teaching or research on medical, artistic, scientific, legal, or other scholarly issues, including legal clinic or center records. However, it also explicitly excludes the institutions' financial records from the exemption.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Related Bills***

SB 1233, favorably reported by Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, generally exempts from disclosure under FOIA the name and address of the person reporting an incident involving alleged bigotry or bias, and the alleged offender, in reports to a law enforcement agency or a database for reporting these allegations established by UConn's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy.

sHB 6883 (File 82), favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, (1) exempts any information indicating the location of a shelter or transitional housing for sexual assault victims from disclosure required under FOIA and (2) requires a public agency meeting's discussion about them to be held in executive session if it would reveal the shelter's or housing's location.

HB 6850, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, generally (1) expands FOIA's limitation on disclosing a home address in an agency's

personnel, medical, or similar files to generally cover all of the agency's employees, rather than just specified groups of employees and individuals (e.g., certain judges and police officers), and (2) extends to all public agency employees provisions in existing law that allow covered individuals to also request address confidentiality for other types of records.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (02/28/2025)