

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5219 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ORDER OF GUBERNATORIAL SUCCESSION
Title: UNDER CERTAIN PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Vote Date: 3/11/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/23/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Connecticut is among the states with the shortest line of gubernatorial succession only constating of two individuals, The Lieutenant Governor, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. There has been a growing concern that should the Governor become incapacitated there are only two alternatives to replace them. There are scenarios that could lead to both successors to also become incapacitated. This would lead to a scenario in which it would be unclear who inherits the position while the Governor and successors are incapacitated. This bill would seek to expand upon the current order of gubernatorial succession as outlined in the state constitution and prevent a constitutional crisis.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Allison Rush

Ms. Rush argues that HB 5219 is important for succession planning, emphasizing the need to clearly designate leadership in emergencies. She uses references to extraterrestrial threats to stress urgency, ultimately calling for a defined line of succession and a designated survivor to ensure continuity of government in any crisis.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Dr. Linda Dalessio

Dr. Dalessio states this is unnecessary for legislative action because Connecticut's Constitution already clearly defines the line of gubernatorial succession. It states that any changes should require a constitutional amendment through a referendum, not legislation by the GAE Committee. The author outlines the existing succession order—lieutenant governor, then president pro tempore of the Senate—and emphasizes that the Constitution provides procedures for filling vacancies without waiting for the next election. She proposes the position that current law is sufficient and should not be altered through this bill.

Anonymous 20, 21, 22, 23, and Jeanine ReSisters submitted testimony with generic reasons for opposition.

Reported by: Cindy Panioto

Date: 3/25/26