



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 553**

February Session, 2026

House Bill No. 5548

*House of Representatives, April 9, 2026*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYEE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES AND CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION RECORDS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 1-217 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) No public agency may disclose, under the Freedom of Information  
4 Act, from its personnel, medical or similar files, the residential address  
5 of any of the following persons: [employed by such public agency:]

6 (1) A federal court judge, federal court magistrate, judge of the  
7 Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court of the state, or  
8 family support magistrate;

9 (2) A sworn member of a municipal police department, a sworn  
10 member of the Division of State Police within the Department of  
11 Emergency Services and Public Protection or a sworn law enforcement  
12 officer within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection;

13 (3) An employee of the Department of Correction;

14 (4) An attorney-at-law who represents or has represented the state in  
15 a criminal prosecution;

16 (5) An attorney-at-law who is or has been employed by the Division  
17 of Public Defender Services or a social worker who is employed by the  
18 Division of Public Defender Services;

19 (6) An inspector employed by the Division of Criminal Justice;

20 (7) A firefighter;

21 (8) An employee of the Department of Children and Families;

22 (9) A member or employee of the Board of Pardons and Paroles;

23 (10) An employee of the judicial branch;

24 (11) An employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction  
25 Services who provides direct care to patients;

26 (12) A member or employee of the Commission on Human Rights  
27 and Opportunities; [or]

28 (13) A state marshal appointed by the State Marshal Commission  
29 pursuant to section 6-38b; or

30 (14) Any other employee of a public agency, except when residency  
31 is a condition or term of such person's employment.

32 (b) The business address of any person described in this section, and  
33 the address of each town hall, city hall or other municipal building in  
34 which the office of the registrars of voters of a municipality is located,  
35 shall be subject to disclosure under section 1-210, as amended by this  
36 act. The provisions of this section shall not apply to Department of  
37 Motor Vehicles records described in section 14-10.

38 (c) (1) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b) and (e) of this section,  
39 no public agency may disclose the residential address of any person  
40 listed in subsection (a) of this section from any record described in

41 subdivision (2) of this subsection that is requested in accordance with  
42 the provisions of said subdivision, regardless of whether such person is  
43 an employee of the public agency, provided such person has (A)  
44 submitted a written request for the nondisclosure of the person's  
45 residential address to the public agency, and (B) furnished his or her  
46 business address to the public agency.

47 (2) Any public agency that receives a request for a record subject to  
48 disclosure under this chapter where such request (A) specifically names  
49 a person who has requested that his or her address be kept confidential  
50 under subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall make a copy of the record  
51 requested to be disclosed and shall redact the copy to remove such  
52 person's residential address prior to disclosing such record, (B) is for an  
53 existing list that is derived from a readily accessible electronic database,  
54 shall make a reasonable effort to redact the residential address of any  
55 person who has requested that his or her address be kept confidential  
56 under subdivision (1) of this subsection prior to the release of such list,  
57 or (C) is for any list that the public agency voluntarily creates in  
58 response to a request for disclosure, shall make a reasonable effort to  
59 redact the residential address of any person who has requested that his  
60 or her address be kept confidential under subdivision (1) of this  
61 subsection prior to the release of such list.

62 (3) Except as provided in subsection (a) of this section, an agency shall  
63 not be prohibited from disclosing the residential address of any person  
64 listed in subsection (a) of this section from any record other than the  
65 records described in subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision  
66 (2) of this subsection.

67 (d) (1) Except as provided in subsections (a), ~~(b)~~ and (e) of this section  
68 and subject to the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this  
69 subsection, no public agency of a municipality may disclose, under the  
70 Freedom of Information Act, from a public record, including any record  
71 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, the  
72 residential address of any person who is a municipal clerk, registrar of  
73 voters, deputy registrar of voters, election official described in section 9-

74 258, primary official described in section 9-436 or audit official described  
75 in section 9-320f, regardless of whether such person is an employee of  
76 the public agency, provided such person has (A) submitted to the  
77 municipality a written request for the nondisclosure of the person's  
78 residential address, and (B) furnished to the municipality (i) his or her  
79 business address, or (ii) if such person does not have a business address,  
80 the address of the town hall, city hall or other municipal building in  
81 which the office of the registrars of voters of such municipality is  
82 located.

83 (2) (A) If a person submits a written request described in subdivision  
84 (1) of this subsection prior to the ninetieth day preceding an election, the  
85 prohibition in said subdivision against disclosing such person's  
86 residential address shall take effect on the ninetieth day preceding such  
87 election and shall expire on the ninetieth day following such election.

88 (B) If a person submits a written request described in subdivision (1)  
89 of this subsection on or after the ninetieth day preceding an election, the  
90 prohibition in said subdivision against disclosing such person's  
91 residential address shall take effect upon such submission and shall  
92 expire on the ninetieth day following such election.

93 (3) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit  
94 the disclosure of the residential address of any person described in  
95 subdivision (1) of this subsection in the case where such residential  
96 address appears on a public record by virtue of such person holding any  
97 elective or appointive state or municipal office other than municipal  
98 clerk, registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters.

99 (e) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit  
100 the disclosure without redaction of any document, as defined in section  
101 7-35bb, any list prepared under title 9, or any list published under  
102 section 12-55.

103 (f) No public agency or public official or employee of a public agency  
104 shall be penalized for violating a provision of this section, unless such  
105 violation is wilful and knowing. Any complaint of such a violation shall

106 be made to the Freedom of Information Commission. Upon receipt of  
 107 such a complaint, the commission shall serve upon the public agency,  
 108 official or employee, as the case may be, by certified or registered mail,  
 109 a copy of the complaint. The commission shall provide the public  
 110 agency, official or employee with an opportunity to be heard at a  
 111 hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,  
 112 unless the commission, upon motion of the public agency, official or  
 113 employee or upon motion of the commission, dismisses the complaint  
 114 without a hearing if it finds, after examining the complaint and  
 115 construing all allegations most favorably to the complainant, that the  
 116 public agency, official or employee has not wilfully and knowingly  
 117 violated a provision of this section. If the commission finds that the  
 118 public agency, official or employee wilfully and knowingly violated a  
 119 provision of this section, the commission may impose against such  
 120 public agency, official or employee a civil penalty of not less than twenty  
 121 dollars nor more than one thousand dollars. Nothing in this section shall  
 122 be construed to allow a private right of action against a public agency,  
 123 public official or employee of a public agency.

124 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 1-210 of the 2026 supplement to the  
 125 general statutes is amended by adding subdivision (29) as follows  
 126 (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

127 (NEW) (29) Records maintained or kept on file by or for the faculty  
 128 or staff of a public institution of higher education arising out of teaching  
 129 or research on medical, artistic, scientific, legal or other scholarly issues,  
 130 including any such records of legal clinics or centers, but excluding any  
 131 financial records of such institution.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-217
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-210(b)(29)

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill expands existing prohibitions against disclosure of residential addresses, personnel, and medical files and exempts certain proprietary records held by public institutions of higher education from disclosure, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5548*****AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYEE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES AND CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION RECORDS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands the list of people covered by the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA) limitation on public agencies disclosing home addresses by adding any public agency employee whose residence is not a condition of employment to the list. It also expands the scope of these address protections.

The bill also exempts from disclosure under FOIA records maintained or kept on file by or for the faculty or staff of a public higher education institution related to teaching or research on medical, artistic, scientific, legal, or other scholarly issues, including any records of legal clinics or centers. The bill specifically excludes from the exemption the institution's financial records.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**FOIA ADDRESS DISCLOSURE*****Covered Individuals***

The bill prohibits a public agency from disclosing, under FOIA, a public employee's address from the agency's personnel, medical, or similar files, unless residency is a condition or term of the employee's employment.

By law, a "public" agency generally includes state executive and legislative agencies and other state entities, municipalities and political subdivisions and their agencies and other entities, judicial offices' administrative functions, an entity that is the functional equivalent of

one of these, and certain nonprofit development corporations designated by a municipality related to certain projects.

Under existing law, the following public officials and employees are already covered by FOIA's home address disclosure limitation:

1. federal judges and magistrates, Connecticut judges and family support magistrates, judicial branch employees, prosecutors, public defenders, public defender social workers, and Division of Criminal Justice inspectors;
2. firefighters, state marshals, and police officers;
3. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services employees who provide direct patient care, and employees of the departments of Correction and Children and Families; and
4. members and employees of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

### ***Scope of Limitation***

Currently, a public agency employing a listed person cannot disclose their residential addresses from the agency's personnel, medical, or similar files. The bill extends this to apply to any public agency that has a listed person's personnel, medical, or similar files, regardless of whether the agency is the person's employer.

By law, for records not covered by this provision, a listed person can request that an agency not disclose a residential address. Under existing law, an agency that receives a FOIA request about a covered person who requested address confidentiality must redact the person's home address only from records given in response to a request that specifically names him or her. Additionally, the agency must make reasonable efforts to redact the person's address from (1) an existing list derived from a readily accessible electronic database and (2) any list that the agency voluntarily creates in response to a disclosure request. The law permits disclosure of a covered person's residential address in any

other type of record (other than in their employer's personnel, medical, or similar files, as described above).

The disclosure prohibition also does not apply to a home address in (1) documents eligible to be recorded in municipal land records; (2) any list required by the state's election laws (such as voter registry lists, petition forms, and logs of absentee ballot applications); or (3) municipal grand lists.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***FOIA Exceptions***

FOIA generally requires government documents and records to be made available to the public, however, there are exceptions. Among others, existing exceptions include test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used to administer a licensing, employment, or academic exam.

### ***Related Bills***

HB 5550, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, exempts from disclosure under FOIA records created by or for the faculty or staff of a public institution of higher education that are course syllabi.

SB 325, File 292, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, prohibits disclosure of the residential addresses of school employees under FOIA.

SB 492, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, prohibits disclosure of the residential addresses of public agency employees under FOIA.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13    Nay 6    (03/23/2026)