



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 572

February Session, 2026

Senate Bill No. 466

Senate, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VEXATIOUS REQUESTERS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of section 1-206 of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

4 (6) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, a public agency
5 may petition the commission for relief from a requester that the public
6 agency alleges is a vexatious requester. Such petition shall be sworn
7 under penalty of false statement, as provided in section 53a-157b, and
8 shall detail the conduct which the agency alleges demonstrates a
9 vexatious history of requests, or harassing or threatening conduct,
10 including, but not limited to: (A) The number of requests filed and the
11 total number of pending requests; (B) the scope of the requests; (C) the
12 nature, content, language or subject matter of the requests; (D) the
13 nature, content, language or subject matter of other oral and written

14 communications to the agency or an employee of the agency from the
15 requester, including, but not limited to, threatening or harassing
16 conduct that took place at or outside of the agency's office regardless of
17 whether such conduct was related to the request; and (E) a pattern of
18 conduct that amounts to an abuse of the right to access information
19 under the Freedom of Information Act or an interference with the
20 operation of the agency. Upon receipt of such petition, the executive
21 director of the commission shall review the petition and determine
22 whether it warrants a hearing. If the executive director determines that
23 a hearing is not warranted, the executive director shall recommend that
24 the commission deny the petition without a hearing. The commission
25 shall vote at its next regular meeting after such recommendation to
26 accept or reject such recommendation and, after such meeting, shall
27 issue a written explanation of the reasons for such acceptance or
28 rejection. If the executive director determines that a hearing is
29 warranted, the commission shall serve upon all parties, by certified or
30 registered mail or electronic transmission, a copy of such petition
31 together with any other notice or order of the commission. The
32 commission shall, after due notice to the parties, hear and either grant
33 or deny the petition not later than one year after its filing. Upon a grant
34 of such petition, the commission may provide appropriate relief
35 commensurate with the vexatious conduct, including, but not limited
36 to, an order that the agency need not comply with future requests from
37 the vexatious requester for a specified period of time determined by the
38 commission, but for a first granting of such petition concerning a
39 requester, not to exceed one year, and for a second or subsequent
40 granting of such petition concerning a requester, not to exceed three
41 years. Any party aggrieved by the commission's granting of such
42 petition may apply to the superior court for the judicial district in which
43 the public agency is located, not later than fifteen days after the
44 commission meeting at which such petition was granted, for an order
45 reversing the commission's decision.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-206(b)(6)
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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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands public agencies' ability to seek relief from the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) against a vexatious requester and increases to three years the maximum period during which agencies may deny FOIA requests from a vexatious requester, if permitted by FOIC. The bill results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities, as it is not expected to result in savings associated with FOIA request workload.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 466*****AN ACT CONCERNING VEXATIOUS REQUESTERS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.*****SUMMARY**

By law, public agencies may petition the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) for relief from a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) vexatious requester. Current law requires agencies to show conduct that demonstrates a vexatious history of requests, and this bill specifies that this may also include demonstrating harassing or threatening conduct.

Under current law, the petition must be sworn under penalty of false statement and detail the alleged conduct that includes:

1. the number of requests filed and pending;
2. the scope of the requests;
3. the nature, content, language, or subject matter of requests or other oral and written communications to the agency from the requester;
4. a pattern of conduct that amounts to an abuse of the right to access information under FOIA or an interference with the agency's operation.

The bill expands the conduct to include (1) the nature, content, language, or subject matter of oral or written communications to an agency employee and (2) conduct about the agency or its employee that is threatening or harassing conduct at or outside the agency's office, regardless of whether the conduct is related to the FOIA request.

By law, FOIC may provide appropriate relief commensurate with a vexatious requestor's conduct, including an order that an agency does not need to comply with the person's requests for a period of time. Currently, this type of order can apply for up to one year. The bill increases this maximum time period to up to three years if FOIC finds a person is a vexatious requestor based on a second or subsequent petition.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

FOIA and Vexatious Requesters

Agencies may petition FOIC for relief from vexatious requesters, and the commission must hold a hearing on the petitions its executive director determines warrant one. The law does not define the term "vexatious requester." Instead, it outlines alleged conduct that must be included in the agency petition and considered during FOIC's review process.

FOIC Review

Upon receiving a petition, FOIC's executive director must review it and determine whether it warrants a hearing. If the executive director determines that a hearing is not warranted, she must recommend that the commission deny the petition. At its next regular meeting, the commission must vote on the recommendation and after the meeting, it must issue a written explanation of the reasons for accepting or rejecting the recommendation.

If the executive director determines that a hearing is warranted, the law requires the commission to serve all parties with a copy of the petition and any other FOIC notice or order. The commission must hear and either grant or deny the petition within one year after its filing.

Related Case

Although vexatious is not defined in statute, the Superior Court upheld FOIC's adoption of the ordinary meaning of vexatious as

causing vexation, distressing, and intended to harass. The case is currently on appeal. (*Olson v. Freedom of Information Commission*, Superior Court, Judicial District of New Britain, at New Britain, No. 6076363, August 30, 2024).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/23/2026)