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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 5528**

#### ***AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC AGENCY EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TRAINING.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires that each member of a public agency take educational training sessions that the Freedom of Information Commission (FOIC) currently offers to members on Freedom of Information Act- (FOIA) related topics. The bill requires a member employed on October 1, 2026, to complete the training by March 1, 2027, and any member hired after October 1, 2026, to do so within six months of starting employment. The bill permits FOIC to offer the training by video or digital recording.

Current law requires FOIC to hold annual training sessions for members of public agencies on FOIA's provisions (such as public record and meeting-related requirements). The bill eliminates requirements for FOIC to hold training on (1) physical requirements for public records (such as standard ink) and (2) the general prohibition on smoking indoors. It adds requirements for the commission to hold trainings on (1) contracts for the performance of a governmental function, (2) veterans' military records, (3) court actions involving FOIA, and (4) the commission's recommended budget appropriations and allotments.

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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**BACKGROUND**

***Related Bill***

HB 5250 (File 316), favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, makes similar changes to the content of trainings given by FOIC to conform to current practice.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19    Nay 0    (03/23/2026)