
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 492

AN ACT CONCERNING SECURITY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.

SUMMARY

This bill expands the list of individuals covered by the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIA) limitation on public agencies disclosing home addresses of certain state employees and others and expands the scope of these provisions.

The bill requires the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC), on or after July 1, 2026, to amend the Citizens' Election Program (CEP) regulations on permissible expenditures to allow expenditures for personal security services. After the regulations are amended, the bill authorizes participating candidates who qualify for a grant to make expenditures for personal security services using CEP grants up until the certification of results for the related election or primary. The bill also allows privately funded candidates to pay for personal security services using campaign funds.

Relatedly, the bill removes a prohibition against candidates and their immediate family members receiving compensation for providing child care services to a candidate's campaign.

Lastly, the bill establishes a legislative safety account to be used for the safety, protection, and security of legislators and staff, and includes funding and appropriations requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026, except the FOIA provision is effective October 1, 2026.

FOIA DISCLOSURE OF HOME ADDRESSES

Covered Individuals

The bill adds to the list of individuals covered by FOIA's limitation

on disclosing home addresses by adding the following individuals:

1. state-wide elected officers or officers-elect;
2. General Assembly members or members-elect;
3. anyone appointed to a state legislative, judicial, or executive branch office by the governor or a governor's appointee, with or without the advice and consent of the General Assembly;
4. probate judges;
5. municipal chief elected officials or executive officers;
6. municipal representative town meeting, board of selectmen, council, board of directors, board of aldermen, or board of burgesses members;
7. local or regional board of education members; and
8. other public agency employees (see BACKGROUND), except municipal clerks, registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters, election officials, primary officials, and audit officials (who must make a written request for the non-disclosure of their residential address).

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 individual cannot disclose the person's residential address 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 individual can request that an agency not disclose a residential address. Under existing law, an agency that receives a FOIA request about a listed individual who requested address confidentiality must redact the person's home address only from records provided 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 individual's residential address in any other type of record (other than their employer's personnel, medical, or similar files, as described above). The disclosure prohibition also does not apply to a public employee's 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.

PERSONAL SECURITY SERVICES

The bill defines "personal security services" as services to a candidate from individuals, other than on-duty law enforcement, to protect the candidate or the candidate's family members or campaign staff and that are needed as a direct result of campaign activity that would not exist but for the candidate's campaign.

It subjects these expenditures to the following conditions and limits:

1. aggregate personal security services and child care expenditures may not exceed the amount of qualifying contributions required to qualify for a Citizens' Election Fund grant (for example, in 2026, \$20,100 for candidates for state senator and \$6,700 for candidates for state representative), and
2. any compensation for personal security services must be reasonable and customary for the services rendered.

By law, participating CEP candidates may provide their campaign with a limited amount of personal funds (for example, \$2,000 for a state senator candidate and \$1,000 for a state representative candidate). The bill exempts personal security services expenditures made directly from a candidate's personal funds from these limits, as long as the candidate does not seek reimbursement from his or her candidate committee. The exemption applies once SEEC amends the CEP regulations as required by the bill.

LEGISLATIVE SAFETY ACCOUNT

The bill establishes a legislative safety account as a separate, non-lapsing account that must be spent by the Joint Committee on Legislative Management for the safety, protection, and security of legislators and staff.

The bill requires that any money received by the joint committee from a national organization representing the interests of American legislatures during FY 27 be deposited into the account. The executive director of the joint committee must certify to the treasurer the amount of money received in this way. The bill requires appropriations for the same fiscal year to match those received from the national organization.

BACKGROUND

Public Agency Definition

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.

Related Bills

sHB 5546, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, among other things, contains identical provisions about allowable personal security expenditures.

HB 5548, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, contains similar provisions about prohibiting disclosure of public employee residential addresses, with exceptions.

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 5 (03/20/2026)