



Senate Bill 475

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS

Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services

Judiciary Committee

March 20, 2026

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Senator Kissel, Representative Fishbein, and distinguished Judiciary Committee members. I am Michelle Gilman, Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Section 1 of **Senate Bill 475: An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Operations**, which proposes to increase the threshold for the constituent units of higher education and the Judicial branch to contract for work without DAS oversight.

While DAS remains neutral on this proposal, if the Legislature wishes to increase the threshold at which the Judicial Branch may contract for work without DAS oversight, we respectfully ask the Committee to consider the following revisions to Section 1. These updates would help ensure the proposal aligns with current practices and statutory requirements.

We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the proponents and the Committee on this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our thoughts to the Committee.

Proposed Changes for Section 1:

(a)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, no repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the state of one million dollars or less or, in the case of repairs, alterations or additions to a building rented or occupied by (A) the Judicial Branch, three million dollars or less or (B) a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, three million dollars



or less, shall be made to any state building or premises occupied by any state officer, department, institution, board, commission or council of the state government and no contract for any construction, repairs, alteration or addition shall be entered into without the prior approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services, except repairs, alterations or additions to a building under the supervision and control of the Joint Committee on Legislative Management or the Military Department and repairs, alterations or additions to a building under the supervision of The University of Connecticut. Repairs, alterations or additions which are made pursuant to such approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall conform to all guidelines and procedures established by the Department of Administrative Services for agency-administered projects. (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, (A) repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the state of five hundred thousand dollars or less may be made to any state building or premises under the supervision of [the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or] a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, under the terms of section [4b-11](#) and (B) repairs, alterations or additions involving expense to the state of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars or less may be made to any state building or premises under the supervision of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator under the terms of section 4b-11. [and any] Any contract for any such construction, repairs or alteration may be entered into by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator or a constituent unit of the state system of higher education without the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative Services.

(b) (1) Except as provided in this section, no repairs, alterations or additions involving an expense to the state of more than one million dollars or, in the case of any repair, alteration or addition administered by the Department of Administrative Services, more than one million five hundred thousand dollars, shall be made to any state building or premises occupied by any state officer, department, institution, board, commission or council of the state government, nor shall any contract for any construction, repairs, alteration or addition be entered into, until the Commissioner of Administrative Services or, in the case of the construction of or repairs, alterations or additions to a building under the supervision and control of the Joint Committee on



Legislative Management of the General Assembly, said joint committee or, in the case of the construction of or repairs, alterations or additions to a building involving expenditures (A) in excess of one million dollars but not more than three million dollars under the supervision and control of the Judicial Branch, said Judicial Branch, (B) in excess of one million dollars but not more than three million dollars under the supervision and control of one of the constituent units of higher education, such constituent unit, or (C) in excess of one million dollars but not more than three million dollars under the supervision and control of the Military Department, said department, has invited bids thereon and awarded a contract thereon, in accordance with the provisions of sections [4b-91](#) to [4b-96](#), inclusive. The Commissioner of Administrative Services, with the approval of the authority having the supervision of state employees or the custody of inmates of state institutions, without the necessity of bids, may employ such employees or inmates and purchase or furnish the necessary materials for the construction, erection, alteration, repair or enlargement of any such state building or premises occupied by any state officer, department, institution, board, commission or council of the state government.

(2) Not later than July 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Administrative Services shall (A) adjust the maximum dollar amounts listed in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, ~~and~~ subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of this subsection, ~~and subparagraph (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section~~ by the percentage change in the Producer Price Index by Commodity: Construction (Partial) (WPU80), not seasonally adjusted, or its successor index, as calculated by the United States Department of Labor, over the preceding calendar year, rounded to the nearest multiple of one hundred dollars; and (B) post such adjusted dollar amounts on the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative Services.

(c) Whenever the Commissioner of Administrative Services declares that an emergency condition exists at any state facility, other than a building under the supervision and control of the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, and that the condition would adversely affect public



safety or the proper conduct of essential state government operations, or said joint committee declares that such an emergency exists at a building under its supervision and control, the commissioner or the joint committee may employ such assistance as may be required to restore facilities under their control and management, or the commissioner may so act upon the request of a state agency, to restore facilities under the control and management of such agency, without inviting bids as required in subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner shall take no action requiring the expenditure of more than one million five hundred thousand dollars to restore any facility under this subsection (1) without the written consent of the Governor, and (2) until the commissioner has certified to the Joint Committee on Legislative Management that the project is of such an emergency nature that an exception to subsection (b) of this section is required. Such certification shall include input from all affected agencies, detail the need for the exception and include any relevant documentation. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply if any person is obligated under the terms of an existing contract with the state to render such assistance. The annual report of the commissioner shall include a detailed statement of all expenditures made under this subsection.

(d) The Commissioner of Administrative Services may, during the term of a lease of a building or premises occupied by any state offices, department, institution, board, commission or council of the state government, (1) renegotiate the lease in order to enable the lessor to make necessary alterations or additions up to a maximum amount of five hundred thousand dollars, subject to the approval of the State Properties Review Board, or (2) require that a security audit be conducted for such building or premises and, if necessary, renegotiate the lease in order to enable the lessor to make necessary alterations or additions to bring the building or premises into compliance with the security standards for state agencies established under section [4b-132](#). Alterations or additions under subdivision (2) of this subsection shall not be subject to the spending limit in subdivision (1) of this subsection, and a renegotiated lease under said subdivision (2) shall be subject to the approval of the State Properties Review Board, provided such approval requirement shall not compromise the security requirements of chapter 60a and this section. The commissioner shall



determine the manner of submission, conditions and requirements of bids and awards made for alterations or additions under this subsection. No lease shall be renegotiated under this subsection for a term less than five years. As used in this subsection, “security” and “security audit” have the meanings assigned to such terms in section [4b-130](#).