

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-6109

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALBERT J. SOLNIT CHILDREN'S CENTER.

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## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	1,079,754	879,754
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	89,656	89,656
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	408,025	408,025

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

This bill, which requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to obtain licensure for the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center from the Department of Public Health (DPH), is anticipated to result in a cost to the state of approximately \$1,577,435 in FY 22 and \$1,377,435 in FY 23. This includes a cost to DPH of \$89,656 annually for a Nurse Consultant to implement licensure, and associated fringe benefits costs under the Office of the State Comptroller of \$37,736 annually.

The Solnit Center is currently certified through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and accredited by The Joint Commission. It has two physically separate campuses: Solnit North in East Windsor, and Solnit South in Middletown.

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<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

Solnit North consists of 38 Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) beds, in 4 cottages, for boys 13 - 17 years old. To meet anticipated DPH licensure requirements at Solnit North, DCF will need to: 1) in FY 22 only, renovate Willow Cottage (e.g., replace its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system) at a cost of \$200,000, 2) hire 10 additional nurses with annual salaries of \$76,772, and 3) hire one psychologist with an annual salary of \$112,034. Fringe benefits for staff, supported under the Office of the State Comptroller, will cost approximately \$370,288 annually.

Solnit South includes a 50-bed psychiatric hospital, which provides acute, inpatient care to children and youth under 18 years of age. It also includes 24 PRTF beds, in 3 cottages, for girls 13 - 17 years old. Due to recent changes made at Solnit South, starting in 2018 in partnership with DPH, and pursuant to a Plan of Correction required by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Solnit South currently meets anticipated DPH licensure requirements.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.