

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6417

AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF YOUTH CAMPS.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 8825)

House Calendar No.: 146

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account - Potential Revenue Gain	None	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	None	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Cost	None	See Below

Explanation

The bill requires certain municipalities and other youth athletic activity operators and youth camps to conduct comprehensive background checks on certain prospective employees resulting in a

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

potential revenue gain to the state and a potential cost to municipalities.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) conducts state background checks for \$75 per person and to the extent additional background checks are requested there is a potential revenue gain to the state. State background checks require fingerprinting, which DESPP conducts for \$15 per person resulting in a potential revenue gain to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account².

The bill also results in a potential revenue gain to the state related to a civil penalty of not more than \$100 per day for each day, up to \$4,500, a licensee has knowledge of an employee's conviction and does not report it to the Office of Early Childhood. The extent of the revenue gain depends on the civil penalty imposed and the number of days the licensee fails to meet the notification requirements established by the amendment.

There is a cost to municipalities that will vary based on 1) the number of background checks they conduct, and 2) the vendor they use to conduct them. A town that conducts these background checks via DESPP would incur costs of \$75 per person for the state criminal background check and \$15 per person for fingerprinting. A town that conducts background checks via a third-party vendor could incur costs of \$18 to \$20 per person for both.

A municipality could at least partially offset this cost if it chose to increase any fees it charges for participation in youth athletic activities.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is in the process of implementing an automated Child Abuse and Neglect Registry system, which will be in place before the bill becomes effective, therefore, no fiscal impact to the agency is anticipated from the bill.

² Funds in the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account are used for IT support and maintenance for the fingerprinting systems.

DCF does not charge a fee for a check of the Registry.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of background checks and inflation.