

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6499

AN ACT CONCERNING RADIATION SECURITY.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Ag. Experiment Station; Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Public Health, Dept.; Transportation, Dept.; UConn Health Ctr.	Various - Savings	119,500	119,500
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	1,275,000	1,275,000
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	307,724	316,956
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	127,090	130,903

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner's authority to regulate radiation sources.

Sections 1- 3 of the bill require DEEP to adopt regulations on sources of ionizing radiation and radioactive materials, and establish fees that are sufficient to administer, implement, and enforce an ionizing radiation program.

¹The 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.

The bill results in an estimated revenue gain to DEEP of \$1,275,000 annually associated with the newly established fees. Under the newly established state program, currently managed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the regulated entities would remit fees to DEEP instead of the NRC.

Establishment of the new program would require DEEP to hire four additional staff to oversee the new licensing program, including a Supervising Radiation Control Physicist, an Environmental Analyst, and two Environmental Compliance Specialists. This results in costs to DEEP of \$307,724 in FY 22 and \$316,956 in FY 23, and associated fringe benefit costs of \$127,090 and \$130,903 respectively.

Additionally, the bill results in a savings of \$115,900 since various state agencies (the Agricultural Experiment Station, DEEP, The Departments of Public Health, Transportation, and the University of Connecticut Health Center) currently pay \$115,900 in aggregate to NRC each year for radioactive material license fees. Under the bill's provisions, these fees will be transferred to DEEP.

Sections 4 - 6 of the bill may result in a revenue gain associated with penalties as it: (1) expands current existing penalties for violations of the state's radioactive materials laws to currently prohibited acts, and (2) makes negligible or intentional violations of the radiation and radioactive materials law's prohibited acts.

Section 5 authorizes DEEP to take necessary actions to protect human health and the environment under certain circumstances and allows the agency to contract with anyone to address hazards, pollution, or contamination. To the extent DEEP chooses to contract with outside consultants, there may be costs for this purpose, which are expected to be covered by fees yielded under the bill.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the amount of

penalties remitted.