

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-6511

## AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR YOUTH SPORTS COACHES, TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS.

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Emergency Services and Public Protection, Dept.	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 <sup>1</sup> - Potential Cost	None	See Below

### **Explanation**

The bill requires certain municipalities and other youth athletic activity operators to conduct comprehensive background checks on certain prospective employees resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state and a potential cost to municipalities.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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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. The bill also requires a federal background check which DESPP conducts for a fee of \$13.25 but remits the fee to the federal government resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. Both state and federal background checks require fingerprinting, which DESPP conducts for \$15 per person resulting in a potential revenue gain to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account<sup>2</sup>.

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, \$13.25 per person for the Federal 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. DCF does not charge a fee for a check of the Registry.

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

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

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