

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6559

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

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 Loss	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Revenue Gain/Loss; Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes resulting in the fiscal impacts described below.

Section 2 allows the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to administer funding for school readiness programs through contracts, rather than

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.

the current grant-based system. This has no fiscal impact to the state as it is not anticipated to materially alter the distribution of school readiness funds. To the extent this change does impact the amounts received by town-based providers, they could experience an associated revenue gain or revenue loss.

Sections 2 and 5 allow group child care homes and family child care homes to receive funding available to school readiness programs and child care centers. While this does not change the total amount of funds expended, it may alter the distribution among providers, which could result in a revenue loss to town-based providers.

Section 3 makes changes to school readiness council membership and allows certain members to be compensated for time, travel, and other related activities, which could result in associated costs to towns who choose to do so.

Section 8 increases the age requirement, from 16 to 18 years, for background checks for certain individuals in family child care homes, resulting in a potential revenue loss to the General Fund and the Applicant Finger Card Submission Account² to the extent fewer background checks occur. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) conducts state background checks for \$75 per person. DESPP conducts federal background checks 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.

Section 9 requires certain prospective youth camp employees to complete a background check, including the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry. DCF is in the process of implementing an automated Child Abuse and Neglect Registry system, which will be in place before the

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

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 bill makes other changes related to background checks that have no state or municipal impact. The bill also expands the accreditations accepted for school readiness programs and allows additional qualifications to be considered for purposes of teaching within the Birth to Three program. These changes have no fiscal impact as they do not require additional program funding.

The bill makes other changes that are technical and conforming in nature and have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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