

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-6597

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCREDITATION, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, MENTAL HEALTH, DATA STORAGE SERVICES AND TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	139,312	143,491
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	57,536	59,262
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes numerous changes affecting state and local law enforcement resulting in the various impacts described below.

Sections 1-2 require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to develop three tiers of minimum standards and

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.

practices for law enforcement units resulting in POST needing to hire two field program assistants for a cost of \$196,848 in FY 22 and \$202,753 (costs include salary and fringe benefits). The new employees are needed to help develop the standards, accredit and reaccredit law enforcement units, review and certify unit compliance, and recommend to the Office of Policy and Management an appropriate penalty for units not in compliance. It's anticipated that 150 law enforcement units will have to meet the new standards, 50 currently meet tier one but approximately 100 would need to start the process from the beginning.

Sections 1 and 2 also result in potential savings to municipalities from eliminating the requirement that law enforcement units receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc (CALEA) by 2025. There is a cost to receiving accreditation from CALEA related to compliance and payment to CALEA.

There is also a potential cost to any municipality that does not comply with guidance regarding reporting procedure, to the extent that the Office of Policy and Management may withhold state funds from the local law enforcement unit.

Section 3 prohibits a law enforcement unit from disciplining or penalizing a police officer as a result of a behavioral health assessment resulting in no fiscal impact.

Sections 4-5 require the Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with DESPP, to study and make recommendations on ways to lower the costs incurred by municipal police departments for digital data storage devices and services related to body-worn recording equipment and enter into a cooperative purchasing plan with municipalities for data storage resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 6 requires POST to develop a training curriculum for police officers interacting with people who have mental or physical

disabilities resulting in no fiscal impact because POST has the expertise to meet the requirements of this section.

Section 7 increases reimbursement rates for the municipal purchase of body-worn cameras and related technology from 30 percent of costs to 50 percent for non-distressed municipalities; the bill does not change the current 50 percent reimbursement rate for distressed municipalities. State reimbursements for body-worn cameras are funded through General Obligation (GO) bond funds. Future General Fund debt service costs may be incurred sooner under the bill to the degree that it causes authorized GO bond funds to be expended or to be expended more rapidly than they otherwise would have been.

As of March 1, 2021, the unallocated bond balance available under the relevant authorization is \$4 million. The bill does not change GO bond authorizations relevant to the program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the terms of any bonds issued.