

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200

Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200

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

sHB-6667

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	900,000	412,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	165,200	170,156
Judicial Dept.	GF - Cost	Up to 100,000	None
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	Up to 275,000	None
Judicial Dept.	GF - Cost	581,499	598,944
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	240,159	247,364

Note: GF=General Fund

#### ***Municipal Impact:***

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

#### ***Explanation***

The bill makes several changes affecting the education and treatment of children in the juvenile justice system and results in the following impact.

---

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

Primary Analyst: PR

Contributing Analyst(s): SB, RDP, ME, CP

Reviewer: ME

4/26/21

**Section 2 and 3** requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to create and implement a new education unit within DCF to educate children who are incarcerated or residing in a juvenile justice facility. DCF will need at least five new positions at an approximate annual cost of \$400,000 (plus \$165,200 for fringe benefits) for the new education unit.

**Section 6** requires the DCF education unit to use a uniform system of statewide electronic record transfers to maintain and share educational records for children in an education program who are incarcerated or in a juvenile justice facility. This will result in a cost to DCF, estimated at more than \$250,000, associated with the software development, contracts, and licensing.

**Section 7** requires DCF to immediately notify a student's previous school when a student, who will be educated under the DCF education unit, is placed in a juvenile justice facility or incarcerated. The development of a new system for immediate record transfer is anticipated to result in a cost to DCF, estimated at more than \$250,000, associated software development, contracts and licensing.

**Section 9** requires the automatic erasure of certain juvenile police and court records when specified conditions are met and results in a one-time cost of up to \$100,000 in FY 22 to the Judicial Department to make changes to the juvenile case management system and a one-time cost to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) in FY 22 of up to \$275,000. To meet the requirements of the bill DESPP will require an information technology consultant to make necessary technology changes.

Implementation of automatic juvenile erasure also results in a cost of up to \$581,499 in FY 22 (plus \$240,159 for fringe benefits) and \$598,944 in FY 23 (plus \$247,364 for fringe benefits) for 11 administrative assistants. One will each be assigned to the 11 juvenile courts to manually review the up to 4,500 juvenile dockets that are eligible for automatic erasure. As with current practice, the staff must verify in the juvenile case management system and ensure no charges

exist in the adult system before erasure requirements are met.

The bill results in a potential cost to municipalities to the extent additional staff are hired, or overtime is incurred, from the requirement that certain electronic records be deleted. It is anticipated potential costs will be isolated to municipalities with greater volumes of criminal records.

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

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