

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-288

AN ACT CONCERNING INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS.

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	81,000	85,000
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	308,000	206,000

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE <sup>2</sup> - Cost	See Below	See Below

### **Explanation**

This bill makes various changes affecting indoor air quality in school facilities. The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish a routine indoor air quality monitoring program by June 30, 2022 for local and regional boards of education and requires these boards of education to meet a number of air quality standards. This results in a state mandate and significant costs to local and regional school districts that are not currently in compliance, as well as

<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.

<sup>2</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.

a significant cost to DPH.

The bill requires local and regional boards of education to ensure that its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC) is maintained and operated in accordance with Standard 62. Current law requires HVAC systems to comply with the prevailing standard, which may be Standard 62, at the time the system is installed or renovated. Schools that are not in compliance with Standard 62 will incur significant costs. It is estimated that schools that are not in compliance and have not been recently renovated could face costs up to \$1 million per school, plus engineering and ongoing maintenance costs to ensure that the HVAC systems are in compliance with Standard 62.

Additionally, the bill requires that school boards must maintain each of its school's gymnasiums at an indoor temperature between 65 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit while students are using it or close it for the day if the school cannot meet the temperature requirements for more than two consecutive hours. This will result in significant costs associated with air conditioning gymnasiums. It estimated that air conditioning a high school gym could be up to \$500,000, up to \$300,000 for a middle school, and up to \$150,000 for an elementary school gym, plus annual maintenance and energy costs.

The costs to schools could be incurred in either FY 22 or FY 23 as the standards must be met by FY 23. The ongoing maintenance and operating costs would be incurred in the outyears.

This bill will result in significant costs to DPH. DPH does not have the expertise in indoor air monitoring and HVAC system operation and maintenance. DPH would need to hire a consultant to create the indoor air monitoring program for the local and regional boards of education. The estimated cost of hiring a consultant to develop the indoor air monitoring program is \$110,000. This one-time cost would be incurred in FY 22. In addition, DPH will need to hire two Epidemiologists at a total cost of \$198,000 in FY 22 and \$206,000 in FY 23 (plus fringe benefits) to oversee consultant work, review the indoor

air monitoring program, establish reporting requirements for the indoor air monitoring program, establish and oversee the contractor certification program, and manage a database necessary to track certification program and correction plan compliance.

***The Out Years***

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