

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1091

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, REVISING STATUTES CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD CUSTODY, FAMILY RELATIONS MATTER FILINGS AND BIGOTRY OR BIAS CRIMES AND CREATING A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL TO INDIGENTS IN RESTRAINING ORDER CASES.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 8666)

Senate Calendar No.: 352

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Cost	803,080	821,172
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	249,072	256,544
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1-3 adds coercive control to the definition of domestic violence and makes victims of such behavior eligible for support and a civil restraining order. This change is anticipated to result in up to an additional 4,000 petitions for a restraining order. In order to accommodate the increase in petitions, it is anticipated that the Judicial Department will have to hire up to six additional clerks and family relations counselors for each of the busiest Judicial Districts

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.

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Reviewer: ME

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(Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, Norwich, and Waterbury) at a cost of \$603,080 annually for salaries and \$249,072 for fringe benefits.

Each restraining order application must be served by a state marshal, resulting in a cost of approximately \$200,000 annually.

Sections 13 and 14 could result in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with providing temporary assistance to domestic violence victims. The number of individuals who would qualify for diversion assistance or state administered general assistance and the value of the benefit under the amendment is unknown. The maximum benefit cannot exceed the equivalent of three months of Temporary Family Assistance benefits, which is approximately \$1,420 per case.

Section 15 establishes a grant program to provide legal assistance to indigent individuals when applying for temporary restraining orders. While the amendment does not specify a funding source for the program, the amendment will result in significant costs to the Judicial Department as a pass through to the administering entity.

A previous pilot program to provide legal representation for applicants seeking a restraining order under the current definition of domestic violence resulted in a cost of approximately \$400,000 to the Judicial Department and the Public Defenders. The pilot was limited only to the Waterbury Judicial District and served approximately 500 clients.

Senate "A" strikes the underlying bill and the associated fiscal impact. It results in the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

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

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.