

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.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 10071

File Copy No.: 617

House Calendar No.: 515

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

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and the associated fiscal impact.

Section 1-3 adds coercive control to the definition of domestic violence and makes victims of such behavior eligible for support and a

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.

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 (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 12 and 13 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 18 results in potential savings by requiring the costs of commitment in some contempt by the court findings to be paid by the person found in contempt. Current law requires such costs to be paid by the state.

Section 23 specifies that the funding for the grant program will be \$200,000 for each judicial district, with the judicial district with the great average of applications can be up to \$400,000. There are 13 judicial districts, resulting in a cost of up to \$2.8 million.

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.