

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5243

AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO ADULT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AGAINST CHILDREN.

## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

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

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	100,000	100,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	40,530	40,530
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	10,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

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

Municipalities	Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE <sup>2</sup> - Cost	See Below	See Below

### ***Explanation***

The bill, which makes various changes in laws on adult sexual misconduct against students, results in the following fiscal impacts:

**Section 4** requires that if a school's survey results reveal that a

<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 40.53% of payroll in 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.

student has been the victim of sexual assault or misconduct by an adult, the school's local or regional board of education must collaborate with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the State Department of Education (SDE) to provide or facilitate training and counseling. Section 4 could result in significant costs to local and regional school districts associated with expanded counseling for students who reveal they have been the victim of sexual assault or misconduct by an adult. Currently, not all districts have enough clinically trained counselors or school psychologists to provide this type of counseling to students. Local and regional school districts may need to hire or contract additional clinically trained therapists, psychologists, or social workers to provide counseling.

**Sections 5 and 6** requires DCF to develop or adopt a bystander training program. This requirement results in a cost of \$10,000, in FY 23, for DCF to contract for services to record, edit and integrate the required training into a web-based format and make it available to local and regional school districts.

**Section 9** authorizes SDE to take disciplinary action on teaching, educator, or coaching certificates, permits, or authorizations if the holder has had a finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by DCF and upheld on appeal. This will significantly increase the number of cases that the Bureau of Investigations and Professional Practices, within SDE, will be required to investigate and process. SDE would require one full-time Attorney, resulting in an annual salary of approximately \$100,000 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$40,530, to complete the requirements within the bill.

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

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