

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sSB-240

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE TO
MITIGATE SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATIONS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	122,089	60,041
UConn	Other - Cost	Up to 92,000	Up to \$122,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	25,165	24,335

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Department of Transportation (DOT) commissioners to work with UConn's Training and Technical Assistance Center (T2 Center) to conduct training for roadside salt applicators that relies on existing municipal guidelines.

Section 1 requires DEEP and DOT to work with UConn's T2 Center to offer road salt application trainings to state, municipal, and private applicators. It allows the trainings to be provided by DEEP and DOT, or UConn's T2 Center. This is anticipated to result in a cost to UConn of up to \$92,000 in FY 23 and up to \$122,000 in FY 24, as the university will offer an enhanced road salt application training program with

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 40.53% of payroll in FY 23.

additional training sessions. These costs may be paid through any fee that UConn chooses to charge training participants.

The estimate assumes the trainings will be provided by UConn's T2 Center (instead of DEEP and DOT) because the center already offers similar trainings to public sector road salt applicators. If the trainings are provided by DEEP and DOT instead of the T2 Center, then there will be minimal costs to UConn to serve in a consultative role.

The bill's costs to UConn, if it offers the trainings, are due to fractional (10 percent) costs for two leadership-level staff currently employed, 80 percent of full-time costs for a new Program Coordinator, and part-time costs for a new Instructor. The personnel-related costs (including fringe benefits) across the positions are an estimated \$89,500 in FY 23 and \$119,500 in FY 24. The estimate anticipates other program expenses of approximately \$2,500 annually.

Section 2 also establishes a salt applicator registration program within DEEP, to be administered and enforced within available resources. This would result in costs to DEEP of \$62,089 in FY 23 and \$60,041 in FY 24, plus fringe benefits, to administer and enforce the new program. The bill also results in new, one-time costs to DEEP of approximately \$50,000 in FY 23 for contractors to develop a new online registration systems.

Section 3 of the bill requires each local health district to establish an electronic reporting system for owners of homes or wells damaged by sodium chloride run-off by January 1, 2023. This is not expected to result in a municipal cost as a spreadsheet could be used to electronically report this information. Health districts must report the information annually to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), which may (1) identify available financial resources to help the owners with remediation, mitigation, or repair costs and (2) establish criteria and procedures for issuing the financial assistance. This is not expected to result in a fiscal impact to OPM as it is anticipated OPM currently provides this information.

Lastly, **Section 4** of the bill requires any person who installs residential water treatment systems to provide customers who want to install an automatic water softener or tank with written information about the (1) importance of testing their drinking water for sodium and chloride and (2) potential consequences of excessive levels of these minerals in drinking water. This has no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as the requirement falls on private-third parties who install water treatment systems.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and whether the training continues to be offered, beyond FY 24.