

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-369

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO DEVELOPMENTAL
SERVICES STATUTES.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 5743)

House Calendar No.: 514

Senate Calendar No.: 294

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill excludes funds in an “Achieving a Better Life Experience” (ABLE) account¹ in the determination of a person's eligibility for the Department of Social Services (DSS) administered general assistance program (SAGA). Since most individuals with an ABLE account are receiving benefits under Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program and therefore not eligible for SAGA, the impact of the bill is anticipated to be minimal, if any.

The bill also makes other technical and clarifying changes that have no fiscal impact. Some of the changes include:

¹ DDS consumers are eligible to have an ABLE account.

The bill allows and encourages the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) licensed residential facility owners to participate in energy assessment programs. This is not anticipated to result in a cost to the state or municipalities.

The bill also requires DDS to report to the Public Health Committee on the findings and recommendations of the assessments. These provisions do not have a fiscal impact as DDS has the expertise to report on the assessments.

The bill repeals Department of Developmental Services statutes related to family support services² and the Family Support Council³ to reflect current practice and are not anticipated to have any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The bill increases, from \$100,000 to \$125,000, the statutory cost allowance cap for executive director salaries in the Department of Developmental Services', Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services', and other state agencies' calculations of grants to private agencies that provide employment opportunities or day services, or residential facility services. This change is not anticipated to result in a state cost as any increase in executive director salary within the allowable cap must be paid from within the provider's allocated budget.

The Senate "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated impact and replaces it with the fiscal impacts described above.

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.

² Family support services refer to the those provided under the Birth to Three Program that moved to the Office of Early Childhood in 2015.

³ The Family Support Council suspended its meeting in 2016.