

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6667

AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 8693), House "B" (LCO 8718)
House Calendar No.: 398

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 24 \$ | FY 25 \$ |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Resources of the General Fund | GF - Potential Revenue Gain | See Below | See Below |
| Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept. | GF - Potential Cost | See Below | See Below |
| Judicial Dept. | GF - Cost | 260,000 | 483,000 |
| State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹ | GF - Cost | 162,884 | 265,556 |
| Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection | GF - Cost | 166,200 | 160,106 |
| Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection | GF - Potential Revenue Gain | See Below | See Below |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

| Municipalities | Effect | FY 24 \$ | FY 25 \$ |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Various Municipalities | Potential Revenue Gain | See Below | See Below |

Explanation

The bill creates various new firearm related offenses and expands existing firearm related offenses which results in a potential cost for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain from fines. On

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 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$2,500² while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800³ each year. The bill also creates a state license for firearm retailers, expands the current local retail permits, and establishes a firearm related crime docket which results in impacts as described below.

Sections 4-11 and 13-16 create a state license for firearm retailers and expand the current local retail permit to include retailers selling any type of firearm, rather than just handguns, resulting in a potential revenue gain the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and municipalities to the extent retailers pay additional licensing fees. The state license and annual renewal fee are \$200, except that anyone with a current local permit who applies for the license before October 1, 2023, will not be charged an initial application fee.

Section 41 requires the Judicial Department to establish a firearm related crime docket in Fairfield, New Haven, and Waterbury on or before December 31, 2023 which requires separate personnel and results in an estimated cost of \$260,000 to the Judicial Department and \$96,000 in fringe benefits for FY 24. The cost to the Judicial Department includes a partial year of salaries, related equipment, and other expenses.⁴ In FY 25, there is an estimated cost of \$483,000 to the Judicial Department and \$197,000 in fringe benefits for the first full fiscal year of implementation.⁵

Section 47 makes changes to the state's response to mass shooting events, resulting in a cost of up to \$233,084 in FY 24 and up to \$228,662

² Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g. food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

³ Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

⁴ Personal Services \$167,000; Other Expenses \$8,000; Equipment \$25,000

⁵ Personal Services \$345,000; Other Expenses \$17,000

in FY 25 to DESPP and the Office of the State Comptroller, as well as potential costs depending on the number of such events.

The section requires DESPP to hire one to two Emergency Management Program Specialists to develop and disseminate plans and coordinate with other state and local agencies. The starting salary of this position is \$78,100, with associated fringe benefits costing \$33,442. There is also an estimated one-time cost of \$5,000 to \$10,000 in FY 24 for equipment and training.

The section also requires DESPP to coordinate, in collaboration with the office of the Chief State's Attorney, an investigation into each mass shooting event, resulting in potential overtime costs to DESPP's State Police averaging \$79 per hour per trooper. It is anticipated that the office of the Chief State's Attorney will be able to comply with this requirement with existing staff. There were three qualifying events in 2022 and two in 2021.

Finally, the section requires DESPP to coordinate with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to deploy grief counselors and mental health professionals after a mass shooting event to the affected community, expected to result in no fiscal impact to either agency.^{6,7}

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

House "B" makes various changes including probation for firearm related offenses and modifications to possession charges and does not alter the fiscal impact in the underlying bill.

⁶ DPH can provide DESPP with information on the CT Association of School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) that it supports. DPH funds a portion of Connecticut's SBHCs, some of which provide mental health services to youth. The association includes 132 comprehensive sites and 152 expanded school health sites in Connecticut for a total of 284 sites. DPH funds a total of 90 sites: 78 comprehensive sites for medical and mental health services, and 12 expanded sites for medical or mental health services.

⁷ DPH also licenses Professional Counselors, but it does not contract with them for the provision of grief counseling or mental health services.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of offenses and 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.