

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6686

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Office of Early Childhood	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various Municipalities	See Below	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of to the General Fund of at least \$250,000 in FY 24 and FY 25 to the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to create a parent cabinet, including hiring one full-time employee to provide administrative assistance to meet the requirements of the bill.

The bill precludes future savings to OEC to the extent that the eligibility expansion for the School Readiness program results in the expenditure of funds that would have otherwise lapsed. Town-based providers would experience a corresponding revenue impact associated with the change in their School Readiness grant, based on the number of children being served.

The bill also precludes future savings to OEC by eliminating the sunset date of the Smart Start program. By making the program permanent, OEC may incur future costs it otherwise would not have

had the program ended, while towns will experience a corresponding revenue impact. The bill also potentially changes the distribution of Smart Start funding to towns by eliminating the option to give priority to plans that allocate spaces for children who are eligible for free and reduced price lunches.

The bill also changes school readiness grant awards from annual to biennial. While this does not change the total amount of funds expended, it may alter the distribution of funds resulting in a revenue impact to town-based providers

The bill makes technical, conforming, and other changes that have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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