

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6817

AN ACT CONCERNING A TEMPORARY PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER, A RESPONSE PLAN FOR A MASS SHOOTING EVENT, AND THE POSTING OF A PERSON'S RIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH OWNING, POSSESSING AND CARRYING A FIREARM.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	83,100 - 166,200	80,053 - 160,106
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	33,442 - 66,884	34,278 - 68,556
Emergency Services and Public Protection, Dept.; State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes changes to the state's response to mass shooting events, resulting in a cost of \$116,542 to \$233,084 in FY 24 and \$114,331 to \$228,662 in FY 25 to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and the Office of the State Comptroller, as well as potential costs depending on the number of such events. The bill also makes changes affecting handgun carry permits and police notices of certain firearm-related rights which are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

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.

The bill requires DESPP's civil preparedness plan to include a response plan for mass shooting events, requiring 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 bill 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. In 2022, there were three qualifying events, and in 2021, there were two.

Finally, the bill 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.^{2,3}

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of mass shooting events and inflation.

*Sources: Department of Administrative Services website
Gun Violence Archive <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports>*

²DPH 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.

³DPH also licenses Professional Counselors, but it does not contract with them for the provision of grief counseling or mental health services.