

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6889

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES WITH SERVICE NEEDS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	Significant	Significant
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	Significant	Significant

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill reinstates parents' or police officers' ability to file a family with service needs (FWSN) petition with the juvenile court and including referrals for children who are truant or who are habitually defiant of school rules. This results in a significant cost to the Judicial Department, to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and to the Office of the State Comptroller.

DCF and the Judicial Branch would likely need to hire Juvenile Probation Officers, Court Liaisons, Social Workers, Social Work Supervisors, Children and Families Program Supervisors, and a Children and Families Program Director. The number of staff required, and the corresponding fringe benefit cost for staff, would be predicated

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.

on the volume of FWSN referrals to DCF and the Judicial Department. Ensuring availability of appropriate services for the referred FWSN population will vary based on the needs of the population and the number of referrals.

It is anticipated that the services that would be impacted, and require additional funding, are in the following domains within DCF: behavioral health services, in-home services, and residential services. In the Judicial Department, referrals would largely be made to community based services and contracted providers and the cost would be significant.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of qualifying FWSNs and referrals, assessed needs of the population, and inflation.

*Sources: Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division Program Inventory for Fiscal Year 2022
Judicial Branch Families with Service Needs Reports FY 2008-FY 2020
<https://www.jud.ct.gov/statistics/juvenile/default.htm>*