OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS
Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◇ (860) 240-0200
http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa

EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION

HB-6942

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND CONCERNING GRANT PROGRAMS, STATE CONSTRUCTION RELATED THRESHOLDS, SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, FAILURE TO FILE FOR CERTAIN GRAND LIST EXEMPTIONS, ELECTIONS, AND OTHER ITEMS IMPLEMENTING THE STATE BUDGET.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

The bill makes many changes, which result in the fiscal impacts described below.

BONDING

Sections 1-112 make various changes to bond authorizations and related programs and result in the following impacts.

Table 1 below summarizes the increases and reductions made to General Obligation (GO) bonds, Special Tax Obligation (STO) bonds, and Clean Water Fund (CWF) revenue bonds in FY 24 and FY 25.

Table 1: FY 24 and FY 25 Increases and Reductions to GO, STO, and CWF Bond Authorizations (in millions)

Description	FY 24 $	FY 25 $

Primary Analyst: EMG
Contributing Analyst(s): NA, RJW
6/7/23

General Obligation (GO) Bonds		
New Authorizations	2,290.6	2,170.5
Changes to Prior Authorizations	(2.5)	(2.5)
Reductions to Current Authorizations	(73.0)	-
NET TOTAL GO BONDS	**2,215.1**	**2,168.0**
Special Tax Obligation (STO) Bonds		
NET TOTAL STO BONDS	**1,557.7**	**1,530.8**
Clean Water Fund (CWF) Revenue Bonds		
NET TOTAL CWF BONDS	**-**	**25.0**

Table 2 indicates the eventual total General Fund fiscal impact of the bill, through debt service, if all GO bonds authorized by the bill for FY 24 and FY 25 are allocated by the State Bond Commission and issued by the Office of the State Treasurer. If new authorizations, including $35 million authorized in FY 23, are fully allocated when effective, there would be a cost to the General Fund for debt service of approximately $57.6 million in FY 24 and $279.1 million in FY 25. The remaining debt service costs identified in Table 2 would be repaid after the biennium.

The debt service associated with GO bond authorizations that become effective before, during, and after the biennium are shown in Table 2, with the latter discussed further below.

Table 2: Net GO Bond Authorizations and Estimated Total Debt Service Cost (in millions)

Fiscal Year Authorized	Authorization Amount $	Total Estimated Debt Service Cost[1] $
2023	35.0	54.3
2024	2,215.1	3,436.2
2025	2,170.5	3,359.2

2026-2028	150.0	232.7
TOTAL	4,570.6	7,082.4
[1] Debt service estimates based on market rates and repaid over 20 year terms.		

Table 3 indicates the eventual total Special Transportation Fund (STF) fiscal impact of the bill, through debt service, if all STO bonds authorized by the bill are allocated by the State Bond Commission and issued by the Office of the State Treasurer. If new STO authorizations are fully allocated, there would be an annual cost to the STF for debt service of approximately $120.0 million in FY 24 and $245.8 million in FY 25. Total debt service costs for STO bond authorizations are identified in Table 3, most of which would be repaid after the biennium.

Table 3: STO Bond Authorizations and Estimated Debt Service Cost for the Infrastructure Improvement Program (in millions)

Fiscal Year Authorized	Authorization Amount $	Total Estimated Debt Service Cost[1] $
2024	1,557.7	2,553.1
2025	1,530.8	2,509.1
TOTAL	3,088.5	5,062.2
[1] Debt service estimates based on market rates and repaid over 20 year terms.		

Clean Water Fund Revenue Bonds

Clean Water Fund Revenue bonds are issued and repaid using the resources of the Clean Water Fund. These bonds are not expected to have an impact on appropriated funds.

Municipal Impact of Bonding Provisions

To the extent authorized bonds are allocated by the State Bond Commission, the bill will result in a collective municipal revenue gain of at least $136 million in each of FY 24 and FY 25, including revenue from two programs (Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) - $45 million each year, and Grants for Municipal Purposes - $91 million each year). New authorizations for multiple other bond programs, including programs regarding school construction, urban development projects, and drinking water programs, will also result in additional revenue gain to various municipalities.

Bond Authorizations After FY 25

Section 101 includes a bond authorization where a portion of the funds becomes effective after the biennium. The authorizations from these sections for FY 24 and FY 25 are included in the totals shown above. Additionally, the section authorizes a total of $$150 million of GO bonds after the biennium ($50 million annually for FY 26 through FY 28). To the extent these future authorizations are fully allocated, there would be a total cost to the General Fund for debt service of approximately $232.7 million after the biennium, as reflected in Table 2.

Section 113 delays a requirement that bond premium be used for projects, rather than debt service, until FY 26, which results in debt service savings that were included in relevant assumptions in House Bill 6941 in the biennium, and potential increased costs in the out years.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Sections 114-139 & 259 approve new priority list projects which result in state grant commitments of $736.4 million for school construction projects, make changes to projects previously approved which result in a net impact of a $37.6 million increase to expected state payments or reimbursements, and make adjustments to current statutory requirements regarding various school construction-related provisions represent a potential increase to state payments and reimbursements of up to $192.6 million. New or increased state reimbursements represent potential revenue gain for the specified municipalities.

The grants-in-aid will be financed through the issuance of General Obligation (GO) bonds in future fiscal years. This portion of the bill does authorize additional bonds.

Section 114 is the priority list under consideration for the year and results in a potential cost to the State and potential revenue gain to municipalities of up to $735.9 million.

Section 115 makes changes to the School Building Projects Advisory Committee membership, which does not have a fiscal impact.

Sections 117-119 make various changes, including changing the statutory reimbursement range for new school construction projects from 10-70% to 10-80% and allowing federal funds to be used as municipal share of project costs for school construction projects and school air quality grants. These provisions are expected to result in increased state costs through higher levels of state reimbursement for projects approved in the future. The impact of increased reimbursement for future projects on the school construction priority list will be reflected when such projects are considered by the legislature in the future.

Sections 120 & 121 approve increased project costs for two projects at Bulkeley High School by approximately $66 million, which results in a state cost and municipal revenue gain of approximately $63 million.

Section 122 & 123 approve two projects in Norwich for the priority list in Section 1 of the bill, the costs of which are represented in the priority list amount discussed above.

Section 124 increases allowable total costs for the Holmes Elementary School project, previously approved in PA 21-111, from $55 million to $70 million, resulting in a potential cost increase to the state and potential revenue gain to New Britain of $14.25 million

Section 125 adds a Jefferson Elementary School construction project to the school construction project priority list, conditional upon New Britain filing an application for the project prior to October 1, 2026. To the extent the project is approved and moves forward, there is a potential cost to the state and potential revenue gain to New Britain of

$66.5 million.

Section 126 makes various changes to the composition of potential school building committees for projects at Jefferson Elementary School in New Britain, and is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact.

Section 127 adds a Naubuc Elementary School construction project to the school construction project priority list, conditional upon Glastonbury filing an application for the project prior to October 1, 2023. To the extent the project is approved and moves forward, there is a potential cost to the state and potential revenue gain to Glastonbury of $1 million.

Section 128 adds a Winthrop Elementary School construction project to the school construction project priority list, conditional upon Bridgeport filing an application for the project prior to October 1, 2023. To the extent the project is approved and moves forward, there is a potential cost to the state and potential revenue gain to Bridgeport of $58.9 million.

Section 129 increases the allowable reimbursement rate for a specified portion of a school construction project in Windham from approximately 40% to 95%, which represents a potential cost to the state and potential revenue gain to Windham.

Section 130 modifies a waiver of various audit requirements and associated project costs from PA 21-111, to include an allowance for reimbursement of otherwise ineligible costs of up to $19,239,432, so long as those funds are used towards the local share of other school construction projects in Hartford, which represents a potential cost to the state and potential revenue gain to Hartford.

Section 131 waives various audit requirements and associated project costs owed to the state from New Haven. To the extent audited projects changed allowable costs or reimbursements, it precludes a cost to New Haven and a revenue gain to the state.

Section 132 waives certain bidding requirements for a project at New

London High School. To the extent this changes the amount of eligible costs and New London seeks reimbursement for those increased costs, this results in a potential cost to the state and potential revenue gain to New London.

Section 133 deems that a closed roof project at Granby Memorial High School meets the twenty-year threshold required for future projects. This is anticipated to have no fiscal impact, unless a project seeks and is granted reimbursement sooner than it otherwise would have been eligible, which would represent a shift in the timing of future costs.

Section 134 waives state standard space specifications for the school construction project at New Fairfield High School. To the extent this makes otherwise ineligible costs eligible for state reimbursement, there would be a potential cost increase to the state and potential revenue gain to New Fairfield.

Section 135 waives state standard space specifications for the school construction project at Cromwell Middle School. To the extent this makes otherwise ineligible costs eligible for state reimbursement, there would be a potential cost increase to the state and potential revenue gain to Cromwell.

Section 136 waives various requirements for the school construction project at Danbury Career Academy at Cartus, and increases allowable reimbursement for the site acquisition portion of the project to $39.4 million, which results in a potential increase in state costs and potential revenue gain to Danbury of up to $10 million.

Section 137 approves increased project costs for the school construction project at Goodwin University Industry 5.0 Magnet Technical High School by approximately $46 million, which results in a potential increase of state cost of the same amount.

Section 138 waives various audit requirements and associated project costs owed to the state from a school construction project at Judson

Elementary. To the extent audited projects changed allowable costs or reimbursements, it precludes a cost to Watertown and a revenue gain to the state of approximately $870,000.

Section 139 waives various audit requirements and associated project costs owed to the state from a school construction project at Polk Elementary. To the extent audited projects changed allowable costs or reimbursements, it precludes a cost to Watertown and a revenue gain to the state of approximately $700,000.

Section 259 repeals a notwithstanding from PA 22-118, which results in a decrease of potential cost to the state of $95.9 million.

Other Sections

Sections 140 – 207 result in various fiscal impacts related to HB 5001, AAC Resources and Support Services for Persons with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability, and are detailed by section below.

Section 140 requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to produce a plan to establish a Transitional Life Skills College program for persons with intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities who are at least 22 years of age by January 1, 2025. This provision does not result in a fiscal impact as the agency has the expertise to develop the plan.

Section 141 requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to consult with other agencies to perform an assessment of employment assistance programs for persons with disabilities, create a workforce plan, and write a report by January 1, 2025.

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $50,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25. It is not anticipated that this cost will continue in FY 26.

Additionally, Section 141 requires OPM to establish financial incentives for businesses to provide increased employment opportunities, which may result in a cost or revenue loss to the state depending on the structure of the incentives, in FY 25 or beyond.

Section 142 requires DDS in consultation with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to reduce the waiting list for DDS residential services. The DDS waiting list for individuals with no residential services was 685 individuals as of January 1, 2023. The average annual per person cost of residential services for this group ranges from $47,000 for in home supports to $112,000 for support in a group home. The cost per individual varies by the assessed level of need (LON). Providing additional individuals with residential services may also increase costs for rental assistance in DDS and room and board costs related to group homes in DSS.

The actual cost to reduce the waiting list is dependent upon the number of individuals funded for services and the time period in which services are provided. The annualized cost to fully fund all 685 individuals on the wait list is approximately $50 million, which would likely be incurred gradually as individuals are able to access services over the next several years. There may also be additional capital costs to purchase or renovate group homes that cannot be quantified at this time. DDS community residential services are covered under the Home and Community Based Services Waiver and the state receives 50% federal Medicaid reimbursement which is deposited to the General Fund.

HB 6941, the budget bill, appropriates $4.3 million in FY 24 and $16.8 million in FY 25 in DDS and DSS to support over 260 individuals on the DDS waiting list with priority given to those with caregivers aged 65 and over.

Section 143 requires OPM to consult with other agencies to do the following for people with disabilities: (1) develop new statutory definitions for IDD, (2) identify relevant programs that may need to be changed due to the new definitions, (3) evaluate the level-of-need assessment tool used by state agencies, (4) assess alternative tools, models or ways to capture and individual's service needs, including methods used by other states, and (5) submit a report by January 1, 2025.

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $100,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25. It is not anticipated that this cost will continue in FY 26.

Section 144 results in a cost to DSS to expand the Medicaid waiver for persons with autism spectrum disorder and reduce the associated waiting list, which totaled 2,005 individuals as of February 28, 2023. The average annual state cost for an individual on the autism waiver is approximately $10,000 per person. The state will incur additional staffing costs for case managers (annual salary of $78,300, plus associated fringe benefits of $33,500), at a ratio of approximately one case manager for every 40 waiver clients.

The actual cost to reduce the waiting list is dependent upon the number of individuals funded for services and the time period in which services are provided. These costs would likely be incurred gradually as individuals are able to access services over the next several years.

HB 6941, the budget bill, appropriates $117,500 in FY 24 and $1.6 million in FY 25 to support the autism waiver.

Section 145 adds persons with IDD to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESPP) missing persons information clearing house which results in a form update that has no fiscal impact.

Section 146 requires DESPP to (1) develop and distribute a form to record information for persons with IDD to municipal police departments and (2) establish a grant-in-aid program to assist municipalities in implementing a local voluntary public safety registration system to incorporate such persons' information in a searchable electronic database maintained by the department and made available to all police officers and public safety answering points, resulting in a potential cost to the state and municipalities, varying based on the extent to which police departments will need to adjust their current systems and processes. Section 95 contains related bond funding of $800,000 for this program, as noted above.

Section 147 requires emergency dispatchers to conduct a search, when practicable, of the electronic database made available to public safety answering points pursuant to section 146, resulting in no fiscal impact.

Section 148 requires the Departments of Developmental Services, Children and Families, and Emergency Services and Public Protection to jointly develop guidelines and best practices for awareness programming resulting in no fiscal impact to the state as the agencies have the expertise to fulfill the requirements. If a municipality decides to adopt this programming, they will have a potential cost for staffing and training.

Section 149 requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to procure and DESPP to distribute sensory kits to up to 75 municipalities, resulting in a potential one-time cost of up to $36,000 starting in FY 24 and through the first quarter of FY 25. Each kit will cost up to $40 and it is estimated that up to 900 kits may be distributed. The actual cost will vary depending on how many municipalities apply for kits. Costs may be reduced through bulk purchase orders and if private donations are made.

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $36,000 in FY 24.

Section 150 requires the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) to establish a Human Services Career Pipeline program. Additionally, the bill requires OWS to develop a plan regarding (1) the workforce needs in the human services sector and (2) the funding amount needed for the Human Services Career Pipeline program.

It is anticipated that OWS, in consultation with other relevant state agencies, will be able to develop the plan within existing resources and report back the necessary level of funding required for the pipeline program.

Section 151 requires DDS to review the rights for persons with IDD and ensure they have remedy to seek redress for violations of these rights and does not result in a fiscal impact as DDS has expertise to do this.

Section 152 requires OPM in consultation with DAS, DDS, DSS, ADS, DMHAS, SDE, DOC, OEC, and DCF to develop a plan for the use of an online portal to share information across agencies. The plan must be submitted by July 1, 2024. HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding $50,000 in FY 24.

Section 153 establishes two new positions in OPM to coordinate programs and services provided by state agencies for (1) individuals with autism spectrum disorder and (2) individuals who have developmental disabilities or an intellectual disability other than autism spectrum disorder.

HB 6941, the budget bill, provides related funding of $180,428 in FY 24 and FY 25 for two positions.

Section 154 requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission to study the experience of people with IDD or ASD who are in the criminal justice system and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

Section 155 requires DAS to establish a pool of funds in FY 25 to allow private providers to apply for financial assistance to comply with certain fire regulation requirements. Section 96 provides related bond funding of $200,000 for this program, as noted above.

Section 156 designates May 23 as "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day" to promote awareness and advocacy for people with IDD and require exercises observing the day as designated by the Governor at both the State Capitol and in local and regional school districts. Various state agencies and school districts may incur minimal costs for engaging in the exercises designated by the Governor. The level of costs for affected agencies and municipalities will be dependent upon the location, nature, and size of exercises.

Section 157 results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) in FY 24 and FY 25 to establish a two-year pilot program in partnership with a hospital to provide nonresidential outpatient day services for persons with autism spectrum disorder. DSS must select a hospital not later than September 1, 2024, and the hospital must start providing services not later than October 1, 2024. The cost of the pilot is dependent upon the scope of the program and funding available.

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $500,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25.

Section 158 requires the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), in consultation with other agencies, to study the higher prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and dementia in persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and determine whether state programs adequately address such higher prevalence resulting in a potential cost of up to $10,000 in FY 24. To undertake the study, the Department will need to hire a graduate fellow from a Connecticut based institution in FY 24 to assist with the research, data collection, and drafting of the report.

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $10,000 in FY 24.

Section 159 requires DOT, in collaboration with DDS and transit districts, to study the demand and need for various transportation services for persons with an intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorder, and to submit the results to the Transportation, Human Services, and Public Health Committees by January 1, 2025. DOT currently conducts similar studies that are required by federal transportation law, and it is expected that DOT would leverage its expertise through those efforts as part of this study.

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $200,000 in FY 24.

Section 160 requires DOT, in collaboration with DDS and DSS, to study methods to provide nonmedical transportation services to and from work, educational facilities, stores and other places for persons with an intellectual disability, and to submit the results to the Transportation and Human Services Committees by July 1, 2025.

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $100,000 for consultant services in FY 24.

Section 161 requires DOT and each transit district to jointly develop a plan to modernize and maintain bus stops and shelters throughout the state and submit a report on such plan to the Transportation Committee by July 1, 2024. The bill requires consideration of several factors, including some that are outside the existing expertise of DOT. Further, this section requires that, beginning in FY 25, each bus stop or shelter that is constructed shall be in accordance with the plan and the ADA.

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $75,000 in FY 24 for a consultant or temporary staff to develop the plan.

Section 162 requires DDS to establish a pilot program to provide nonmedical transportation services to persons with an intellectual disability in the northwestern region of the state. The cost associated with the pilot program will be dependent on the following variables: number of riders, distance covered and scope of service (times/days/eligible destinations).

HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $250,000 in FY 24 and $500,000 in FY 25.

Section 163 requires DOT to develop a notice concerning certain travel training program and does not result in a fiscal impact.

Section 164 requires the Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with ADS, DDS, DMHAS, and DSS, to develop a video presentation and resources for public passenger endorsement applicants and results in a cost of up to $25,000 in FY 24 for development of the materials.

Section 165 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to hire a Transition Services Coordinator and Assistant Transition Services Coordinator to work with parents, students, and local and regional school districts to assist special education students ages 18 to 22 transitioning out of the public school system. This will also requires an additional Associate Education Consultant and an Education Manager

HB 6941, the budget bill, appropriates related funding of FY 24 and FY 25 for this purpose.

Section 166 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop a training program concerning special education and transition services. It is anticipated that the staff hired by SDE pursuant to the amendment would fulfill this requirement.

Section 167 requires the Office of Early Childhood, and the Departments of Developmental Services, Aging and Disability Services, Children and Families, Social Services, and Corrections to appoint liaisons to the State Department of Education's transition coordinator. This has no fiscal impact.

Section 168 requires the State Education Resource Center (SERC) to develop and maintain an easily accessible list of resources to assist families with transition services. The section also specifies where links to the resource established by SERC must be posted and requires SDE to ensure the list is up to date. It is anticipated that the staff hired by SDE pursuant to the amendment would fulfill this requirement.

Section 169 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop, and regional educational service centers (RESCs) to provide, a training program for transition coordinators and staff employed by local and regional school districts. It is anticipated that the staff hired by SDE pursuant to the amendment would develop the training.

Depending on the extent of the training that SDE prescribes, the RESCs may incur costs to provide it to local and regional school districts at no cost to the districts beginning in FY 25. Any cost is anticipated to be minimal, associated with the purchase of any materials.

Section 170 requires each local and regional board of education to appoint a transition coordinator and requires the coordinator to provide transition resources to parents of students receiving special education services. This has no fiscal impact, as the bill allows for such person to be an existing employee. Section 173 also requires certain educators and paraprofessionals to take a training established by the amendment. This has no fiscal impact.

Sections 172 - 176 extend the obligation of local and regional school districts to provide special education services to students that are age 22. This conforms statute to existing judicial directive.

Section 177 requires the State Education Resource Center to study each transition program provided by a local and regional school district and RESC and produce a report by February 1, 2024. SERC could incur costs of up to $300,000 to hire a consultant to conduct the study.

Sections 178 and 179 result in costs annually beginning in FY 24 to local and regional school districts to (1) provide a translator for a planning and placement team meeting if needed, and (2) provide materials, translated if needed, concerning available resources for special education and transition services. Translation services typically cost between $125-$175 per hour, with a two-hour minimum. As an illustration, the Hartford school district typically has over 1,000 planning and placement team meetings per year. If 25%[1] of those meetings required a translator, at the required two-hour minimum, the cost to the district would vary from $62,500 to $87,500 annually.

The provision of this section requiring local and regional school districts to provide translated or non-translated materials may result in minimal printing costs.

Section 180 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to

[1] This is the percentage of Hartford's October 1, 2022 ECS student count classified as English Learners.

develop an online resource for parents regarding guardianship or conservatorship. It is anticipated that the staff hired by SDE pursuant to the amendment would fulfill this requirement.

Section 181 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to report to the departments of Developmental Services, Social Services, and Aging and Disability Services the aggregate number of students who had planning and placement team meetings during which information was given about the services those agencies provide. It is anticipated that the staff hired by SDE pursuant to the amendment would fulfill this requirement.

Section 182 requires the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to employ transition advisors to provide transition services for children requiring special education who may be eligible to receive services from the department.

HB 6941, the budget bill, includes funding of $373,500 in FY 24 and $765,000 in FY 25 to support nine transition advisors.

Section 183 requires the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) to employ vocational rehabilitation counselors to provide transition services for children requiring special education who may be eligible to receive services from the department.

HB 6941, the budget bill, includes funding of $345,000 in FY 24 and $925,000 in FY 25 to support 14 counselors.

Section 184 results in annual costs of approximately $307,000 beginning in FY 24 for the State Department of Education to hire at least two staff members to fulfill the mediation services responsibilities established by the bill. It is anticipated that SDE will need to hire an Associate Education Consultant and an Education Manager for a total annual cost of $215,000 in salaries and $92,000 in fringe benefits.

Sections 185 and 186 make procedural changes to the hearing and mediation processes and requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to publish information about mediation on its Web site. This results in no fiscal impact as it is anticipated SDE has the resources to fulfill this requirement.

Section 187 results in costs of $718,000 in FY 24 and $737,000 in FY 25 and annually thereafter. It requires the State Department of Education to employ at least five auditors to annually conduct audits beginning in FY 25 of special education programs in randomly selected school districts. This cost includes $503,000 in salary costs and $215,000 in fringe benefits in FY 24 and $516,000 in salary costs and $221,000 in fringe benefits in FY 25.

Section 188 expands training that must be offered by local and regional school districts to its educator staff to include laws regarding PPTs and Section 504 plans. This has no fiscal impact as it is anticipated that districts can complete this requirement with existing resources.

Section 189, which requires the Office of Early Childhood (OEC)'s individual service coordinators to meet with families to provide and discuss the contact information for the person responsible for the administration or coordination of special education services for the school district in which such child resides and provide such school district employee responsible for special education services with the individualized family service plan for the child, results in no fiscal impact because OEC already has the resources and expertise to do so.

Section 190 requires the State Department of Education to develop a handout about what it means to have an individualized education plan, and to make the handout available to local and regional school districts and online. This has no fiscal impact, as it is anticipated that SDE can meet the requirement with existing resources.

Section 191 requires local and regional school districts to provide families with the Parents' Guide to Special Education in Connecticut, and other documents developed by the State Department of Education. This results in minimal printing costs to local and regional school districts.

Section 192 establishes a DDS grant program for supportive housing development for persons with intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities and allows not more than $5 million to be expended in any one of DDS's three service regions. Section 97 provides related bond funding of $15 million, as noted above.

Section 193 requires DDS in collaboration with the Departments of Housing and Correction to create a plan for a program for community-based group homes for persons with an intellectual disability reentering society from the correctional system and is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact because the agencies have the expertise to develop the plan.

Section 194 requires municipal affordable housing plans to address affordable housing unit accessibility for individuals with developmental disabilities. This has no fiscal impact as it expands requirements for a plan that is already required by statute, and it is anticipated that municipalities have sufficient resources to address this aspect.

Section 195 requires the State Treasurer to designate a director of outreach for the ABLE program, which results in a cost to the State Treasurer of $91,048 in FY 24 and $121,397 annually beginning in FY 25 associated with hiring one executive assistant ($85,000 annual salary and $36,397 fringe benefit cost).

Section 196 establishes a personal income tax deduction for ABLE account contributions, which results in a General Fund revenue loss of approximately $100,000 annually beginning in FY 25. This is based on data from the Office of the State Treasurer indicating contributions totaled $1,421,902 in FY 22 and $610,477 in FY 21.

Section 197 establishes a tax credit for businesses making contributions to employees' ABLE accounts. This results in a General Fund revenue loss of up to $1 million annually beginning in FY 25.

Sections 196 and 197 also result in a one-time cost of up to $75,000 to the Department of Revenue Services in FY 24 only associated with programming updates to the CTax tax administration system and myconneCT online portal, and form modification. HB 6941, the budget bill, allocates related ARPA funding of $75,000 in FY 24.

Section 198 specifies that, to the extent allowed under federal law, the state cannot conduct estate recoveries against funds originating from ABLE accounts of Medicaid beneficiaries, which has no fiscal impact.

Section 199 requires DSS to amend the Medicaid waiver programs administered by DDS, contingent on approval by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to authorize compensation for family caregivers providing personal care assistance (PCA) services to participants in the programs. The fiscal impact of this provision is dependent upon the compensation of PCA services approved by CMS and the extent to which DDS consumers: (1) shift from a more costly community-based services or (2) utilize previously unspent funding in their individual authorized budgets on family PCA services.

Section 200 expands the JobsCT tax credit for individuals with intellectual disability. This does not result in any fiscal impact as it retains the existing aggregate credit cap of $40 million annually.

Section 201 allows the administrative services commissioner to give a price preference when purchasing goods and services from a business that has a workforce consisting of at least 10% of individuals with intellectual disability. To the extent the Department of Administrative Services provides these businesses a price preference of up to 10%, this results in a potential cost to various state agencies.

Section 202 results in a cost of approximately $150,000 annually to the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to establish and administer a workforce development program that will provide grants to nonprofits that employ individuals with intellectual disability. It is anticipated that DECD will require one full time position at a cost of $135,700 ($95,000 salary and $40,700 fringe costs) and $14,000 for general expenses to administer the program. Section 98 contains related bond funding of $1 million, as noted above.

Section 203 expands the length of time for which child support may be ordered at the discretion of a judge for children who are intellectually disabled and does not have a fiscal impact. The additional years are unlikely to pose a cost to the child support enforcement division of the Judicial Department due to the relatively small number of cases to be impacted.

Sections 204-207 make changes to the zoning and establishment statutes for community residences. This is not anticipated to have any fiscal impact to the departments of Children and Families, Developmental Services and Mental Health and Addiction Services which are the state agencies that fund or provide such community residences.

Sections 208-215 allow taxpayers in Berlin, Bloomfield, East Hampton, Middletown, Thomaston, Thompson, West Hartford, and West Haven to receive tax exemptions that they would have otherwise been eligible to receive if they had not missed the filing deadline for such exemptions in certain years. Depending on whether the payments have already been made, this results in a cost to these towns to reimburse such taxpayers, or a revenue loss. It is anticipated that any impact would only occur in FY 24.

Section 216 validates the plan of consolidation between the town of Manchester and the Eighth Utilities District. Any impact to Manchester and the Eighth Utilities District will depend on the terms of the consolidation.

Section 217 validates the notice of assessment increase for the October 1, 2022, grand list for the city of Norwalk. This may result in potential revenue gain to Norwalk beginning in FY 24 to the extent this results in an assessment increase.

Section 218 permits the town of Windham to update statements filed with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) related to the motor vehicle property tax grants. This results in a cost to OPM and a corresponding revenue gain to the town of Windham in FY 24 and FY 25.

Section 219 transfers $5,000,000 of carry-forward funding pursuant to section 41 of House Bill 6941 of the current session in FY 24 from the Department of Environmental Protection to the Office of the State Comptroller for flood damage remediation purposes. This reallocation results in no fiscal impact.

Section 220 extends the length of time for which Hartford may fix assessments on certain improvements, from 15 years to up to 20 years from the completion of the project and allows fixed assessments on any capital city project, as defined in statute, and adjusted by the bill. Any impact to Hartford will be dependent on the projects approved.

Section 221 allows the FY 23 allocation of ARPA funds for Emery Park in Kent to be also used for Kent Commons.

Section 222 carries forward $200,000 from State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits, for State Employee Health Service Cost to the Department of Economic and Community Development and $100,000 of such funds will be available in FY 24 and $100,000 available in FY 25 for a grant to the Hill-Stead Museum.

Section 223 makes a conforming change with HB 6941 as amended regarding distributions from the Regional Planning Incentive Account. HB 6941 as amended provides for a $7 million annual payment from the account beginning in FY 24 and this section ends the current formula.

Section 224 clarifies a definition of consumer agreement and does not result in a fiscal impact.

Section 225 allows taxpayers in Meriden to receive tax exemptions that they would have otherwise been eligible to receive if they had not missed the filing deadline for such exemptions in the 2021 grand list year. Depending on whether the payments have already been made, this results in a cost to the town to reimburse such taxpayers, or a revenue loss. It is anticipated that any impact would only occur in FY 24.

Section 226 prevents a municipality from modifying a municipal charter in certain ways. Any fiscal impact is dependent on how a municipality would have otherwise modified the charter. Any fiscal impact is dependent on how a municipality would have otherwise modified a charter and the costs, savings, or revenue changes that would have occurred due to the modification(s).

Section 227 allocates remittances collected by the Insurance Department for the 12 months ending April 30, 2023, from the $12 homeowners insurance surcharge deposited in the Healthy Homes Fund to be used by the Department of Housing (DOH). The remittances will be used by DOH for grants-in-aid for the remediation of structurally deficient foundations in owner-occupied units or the relocation of any owner of any such unit of any condominium associations located in the town of Hamden, up to the actual costs of remediation or relocation.

This has no fiscal impact as it does not change the amount of funding in the Healthy Homes Fund, the transfer to the Crumbling Foundations Assistance Fund, or anticipated expenditures from the fund. Instead, the bill results in the reallocation of some or all of approximately $1.9 million currently in the Healthy Homes Fund for DOH to use for an alternative purpose.[1]

Section 228 carries forward $60,000 from State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits, for State Employee Health Service Cost to the Department of Consumer Protection and $30,000 of such funds will be available in FY 24 and $30,000 available in FY 25 for program costs related to professional assistance program.

Section 229 establishes a 50% tax credit (up to $20,000 for individuals

[1] Under existing law this funding would be used for DOH's lead abatement, removal, and remediation program.

and $100,000 for businesses) for cash contributions to a youth development organization, which results in (1) a revenue loss of up to $2.5 million in FY 25 and FY 26 and (2) a one-time cost of up to $75,000 in FY 25 to the Department of Revenue Services for programming updates to the CTax tax administration system and myconneCT online portal.

Section 230 directs $3 million of the amount appropriated to the State Department of Education for Magnet Schools in FY 24 to be used for tuition assistance to the Hartford board of education. This results in a revenue gain to the Hartford board of education.

Section 231 provides funding of $200,000 in FY 24 for a grant-in-aid to Artists Collective, Inc. through carryforward funding.

Sections 232-233 have no fiscal impact. The purpose of this section is to consider unaffiliated board and council members as members of the party for which they ran for office or not a member of any party for the duration of their time in office. These sections do not obligate the state to any action.

Sections 234-238 direct the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to award grants of at least $25,000 each to every Council of Government (COGs) that has appointed a regional election advisor. This results in a potential cost to OPM of approximately $225,000 annually beginning in FY 24 as there are nine COGs (presuming the minimum grant level of $25,000). The bill formally moves the requirement to have a regional election monitor to an option. This codifies existing practice, and few if any local or regional government organizations utilize them currently.

Sections 239-258 adjust the recordkeeping and allows splitting of expenses for joint events for legislative caucus and leadership committees and creates additional recordkeeping requirements for the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC). This would have no fiscal impact.

The bill makes a variety of adjustments to the size of campaign grants from the CEP; and allows dispersal from the CEP for primary campaigns. This will increase the cost to the Citizens Election Fund (CEF) if more candidates utilize the program because of the increased funding available.

The bill also charges the SEEC with adjusting the campaign funding available through the CEP in line with the consumer price index urban basket (CPI-U) annually. This would tie the increase to inflation and its costs would adjust accordingly.

The bill adjusts for state representative and state senator elections the formula for calculating the qualifying contributions necessary to access the CEP. This would tie that figure to CPI-U as well but would move the look back window to between 2017-2021. This freezes the contribution levels at the 2022 levels and may make it easier to access for candidates in 2024. To the extent more people access the funds it could potentially increase costs.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impacts identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the terms of any bonds issued, project completion, successful municipal application for reimbursement, the costs of borrowing, terms of the town of Manchester consolidations, and the assessment increase for the city of Norwalk.