

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5170

AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR MEMBERS AND  
EMPLOYEES OF INLAND WETLANDS AGENCIES.

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## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	Up to 10,000	Up to 10,000
Uconn	GF - Revenue Gain	Up to 10,000	Up to 10,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill requires all members and employees of town inland wetlands agencies to complete online training and periodic retraining. This is anticipated to result in a cost to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and a commensurate revenue gain to the University of Connecticut (UConn, which hosts the training) of up to \$10,000 in both FY 25 and FY 26. Costs will continue into the out years.

The fiscal impacts in FY 25 and FY 26 are due to higher participation in the online training, in advance of the bill's January 1, 2026 training deadline. Under current law, only one person from each agency must complete the training, which is already provided by DEEP in the format required by the bill. It is estimated that approximately 1,350 inland wetlands agency members and staff will need to take the training

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between FY 25 and the first half of FY 26.<sup>1</sup> Assuming training participants are split equally between FY 25 and FY 26, and a projected per-registrant cost of \$7 per person, a cost of \$4,725 is expected in each fiscal year. This is an increase of approximately \$1,200 to \$3,000 beyond the annual per-registrant costs that would otherwise be expected based on participation in prior years (497 registrants in 2022 and 244 in 2023). Additionally, a higher customer service volume (with this task currently handled by UConn) is expected to result in a further cost increase of approximately \$7,000 to \$9,000.

This estimate assumes that DEEP and UConn will reach agreement for a new online training contract with similar terms and a \$7 per registrant cost. The current contract expires July 31, 2024. If a different option for offering training is selected by DEEP, the bill's costs may vary from the information above.

### ***The Out Years***

The bill results in out year costs due to the requirements that: (1) new members and staff complete training within one year of hire; and (2) all members and staff retrain every four years or (for members) once every term, whichever is longer. Out year costs may be less than \$10,000 per year due to the varied timing of these training requirements. Out year costs will vary depending on the number of training participants and the terms of a training contract.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on an OFA sample of online town inland wetland agency member listings. Among the 21 town listings viewed, the number of full and alternate members (excluding vacancies) ranged from six to ten, with a median and average of seven. As agency staff would also be subject to the requirement, with one staff person per town, on average eight people for each of 169 towns would engage in training.