

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-444

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MODIFICATION OF SENTENCES
FOR CANNABIS-RELATED OFFENSES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Cost	2,000,000	1,953,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	767,000	767,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Judicial Department to order the discharge of any person who is incarcerated for only cannabis-related offenses and to order hearings for the possible discharge of other sentences related to cannabis charges, results in a cost to the Judicial Department of about \$2 million in FY 25 and about \$1,953,000 in FY 26 and approximately \$767,000 to the State Comptroller- Fringe Benefits in both fiscal years.

The bill will require a manual review of the Judicial Department's current probation supervision clients to determine who orders should be scheduled for.² This process would require approximately 31

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 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

²As of April 1, 2024, there are approximately 32,000 individuals on probation in the state.

temporary clerks to complete the reviews over the course of two years.³ The estimated cost includes \$1,860,000 in salaries and \$93,000 in other expenses for both fiscal years. In FY 25, \$47,000 is included for one-time equipment costs.

The bill's requirements do not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Correction (DOC). The bill also requires collaboration from DOC regarding any cannabis related sentences, however previous studies have demonstrated that few, if any, are currently incarcerated for such offenses.

The Out Years

The costs associated with this bill may continue depending on the Judicial Department's ability to review the cases and order hearings within two years.

³Temporary clerks are compensated at a rate of \$60,000 annually.