

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-3

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 5519

File Copy No.: 182

Senate Calendar No.: 133

OFA Fiscal Note

See Fiscal Note Details

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the following impact.

Section 2 and 4 create two new unfair trade practices resulting in a potential annual cost to DCP of up to \$155,000 for salary and other expenses along with associated fringe benefit costs of up to \$64,000 beginning in FY 26 to hire up to two additional employees.¹ The employees may be needed depending on the number of complaints and investigations required by the two new unfair trade practice violations.

Section 3 results in a potential cost to (1) the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) beginning in FY 27 and (2) various state and municipal agencies beginning in FY 28 by prohibiting public agencies from operating drones assembled or manufactured by a covered foreign entity.²

Section 3 also allows any state or municipal agency to waive the

¹The positions include one special investigator and one staff attorney.

²Most drones currently used by first responder organizations are made in China. State-wide, such organizations have spent about \$1-2 million on drones this amendment prohibits. The cost of replacing these drones to achieve equivalent capabilities is estimated to be two to three times greater than amounts previously spent, but will vary depending on the specific models and capabilities that any given agency will need to replace.

prohibitions in the amendment, provided such agency submits a written statement to DESPP justifying the need for such waiver, which may decrease or eliminate the potential cost described above, to the extent that waivers are submitted. DESPP must maintain all written statements, which are subject to disclosure to any member of the General Assembly and under the Freedom of Information Act. This provision does not result in a cost to DESPP or any other state or municipal agency, as they can meet these requirements with existing resources.

Sections 5-7 create three new unfair trade practice violations that are solely enforced by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) resulting in a potential cost to the OAG and the State Comptroller. It is anticipated that the OAG could require up to two additional positions for an annual potential salary cost of \$150,000 and associated fringe benefit cost of \$62,000 beginning in FY 26 depending on the number of complaints and investigations.

Section 8 requires municipalities to register a ".gov" internet top-level domain and redirect any existing Internet web site addresses maintained by such municipality to the new ".gov" domain. This results in a potential cost to various municipalities in FY 25 and FY 26 to the extent they do not have the necessary staff to transition to a .gov domain. Currently, 116 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities do not have a ".gov" top-level domain and will need to register a new domain with such designation. There is no registration cost for entities eligible for the ".gov" designation. There is no fiscal impact to municipalities that already use a .gov domain or have the staff necessary to complete the transition to the new domain. For towns without the resources to complete the transition, there is a federal grant program administered by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security that assists with the transition process.³

The amendment also makes various changes to consumer protection

³ <https://www.cisa.gov/state-and-local-cybersecurity-grant-program>

statutes that result in no fiscal impact to the state.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.