

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-14

AN ACT ASSISTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN IMPROVING
EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 5112

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Senate Calendar No.: 321

OFA Fiscal Note

See Fiscal Note Details

The amendment establishes the Early Start CT program, which results in the fiscal impact described by section below.

Section 26 results in annual cost to OEC beginning in FY 26 of approximately \$265,000 (and associated fringe benefits of approximately \$110,000) to hire three staff for contract management for the Early Start CT program.

Section 27 results in a potential cost to OEC and potential revenue gain to municipalities beginning in FY 26 associated with establishing local governance partners to assist in the provision of early care and education. The amendment requires each local governance partner to conduct a data-driven needs assessment and to hire a staff liaison to assist in implementing the provisions of this section. The extent of the cost to the state and revenue gain to municipalities is dependent on the amount of funding allocated to municipalities or school districts by the state.

Section 28 may result in a fiscal impact to OEC beginning in FY 26 related to establishing a sliding fee scale for families enrolled in an early care and education program under Early Start CT. OEC is required to

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model the sliding scale on the sliding fee scale used in the childcare subsidy program. To the extent this varies from current sliding fee scales, it is anticipated that OEC would be responsible for the differential cost to subsidize the program.

Section 29 may preclude future savings beginning in FY 26 by allowing OEC to retain up to \$2 million of allocated unexpended funds for professional development initiatives that may not have otherwise been spent.

Section 40 eliminates the cap on grants beginning in FY 25 for operating expenses under Smart Start. To the extent boards of education exceed the current annual cap of \$300,000, OEC will incur additional costs with a corresponding revenue gain to boards of education.

The amendment also (1) expands the duties of the Office of Dyslexia and Reading Disabilities and the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success; and (2) creates two one-time reporting requirements of the State Department of Education (SDE). This has no fiscal impact. It is anticipated SDE can meet these additional duties with existing resources.

Lastly, the amendment makes several technical, clarifying and conforming changes regarding: (1) high school diplomas; (2) funding of magnet schools; (3) the State Department of Education's role in promoting student familiarity with local farms; (4) special education services for students transitioning out of the public school system; and (5) the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System. These changes have no fiscal impact.

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.