

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-295

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE FOR TECHNICAL CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENT-RELATED STATUTES.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 5862

File Copy No.: 297

Senate Calendar No.: 210

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Potential Cost/Revenue	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and the associated fiscal impact. The amendment results in the impacts described by section below.

Sections 1-5 make various changes to bond-funded programs, including the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA) administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental

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Protection (DEEP).¹ Future General Fund debt service costs may be incurred sooner under the amendment to the degree that it causes authorized GO bond funds to be expended or to be expended more rapidly than they otherwise would have been. The amendment does not change GO bond authorizations relevant to the program.

These sections result in a potential revenue gain to various municipalities beginning in FY 25 to the extent they qualify for the grant under the expanded eligibility.

Section 6 authorizes DEEP to acquire up to 25.7 acres of property for the Resilient Bridgeport flood control project and to ensure relocations of utilities as needed. The section reduces the state share of utilities relocations by up to 50 percent, which may result in a one-time state savings of up to approximately \$1.5 million when the project occurs in the next several years. The property acquisitions are expected to have a cost within the next few years; however, it is anticipated that both the state share of the utilities relocations and the acquisitions will be paid with federal funds.

As the section requires relocation of some utilities, including electric, it results in a potential rate increase. This legislation shifts up to one-half of the cost of utility relocation from the state to utility companies, which will be recovered through the normal rate process. The extent of the impact will depend on the number of utilities required to be relocated and the total cost for that relocation.

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.

¹ No change is anticipated to the portion of OSWA that is funded through the Community Investment Account.