

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5332

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Prevents Revenue Loss	approx. \$108 million	approx. \$108 million
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Prevents Revenue Loss	approx. \$280,000	approx. \$280,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes various changes to statutes concerning the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Sections with fiscal impact are detailed below.

Section 5 is a healthcare provider notification provision required by the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). If Connecticut were to be deemed not in compliance with CAPTA requirements, it would result in a loss of federal funding of approximately \$280,000 annually, based on current federal funding levels. DCF was awarded a CAPTA grant of \$280,851 in 2017.

Section 6 restricts DCF from running state and national criminal history checks, and state child abuse registry records checks, on individuals who are not living in a foster household being licensed/approved, but who have regular unsupervised access to a child in the home of an applicant. The Auditor of the Department of

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Emergency Services and Public Protection notified DCF that background checks on individuals that are not part of the licensing process go against Federal Bureau of Investigations policy. Without **Section 6** restrictions, DCF's ability to obtain state and national criminal history for individuals that are part of the licensing process would be a risk. Without these background checks, the agency would not be in compliance with Title IV-E of the Social Security Act requirements. Lack of compliance could result in a loss of federal funding of approximately \$108 million annually, based on current federal funding levels. Title IV-E revenue of approximately \$108 million was deposited into the General Fund in FY 17.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to federal funding, and federal funding requirement changes.