

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5472

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF SHORTHAND REPORTERS AND CONCERNING A STUDY OF VIDEO COURT APPEARANCES BY DEFENDANTS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Cost	64,927	64,927
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	22,680	22,680
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	At least 72,500	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires shorthand reporters to receive a certification from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and results in a cost and a revenue gain to the state.

To administer, verify, and process the applications DCP will need to hire a part-time License and Applications Specialist (\$33,107 salary and \$12,028 fringe benefits) and a part-time License and Applications Analyst (\$29,320 and \$10,652 fringe benefits) along with \$2,500 other expenses for the two positions.

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 36.33% of payroll in FY 19 and FY 20.

The bill results in an estimated revenue gain of at least \$72,500 in FY 19 due to an estimated 250 people applying for this certification and paying the associated fees. The revenue gain in FY 20 is expected to be minimal due to the majority of shorthand reporters already having received the certification in FY 19 and not having to renew for three years.

The Commissioner of DCP may impose a civil penalty up to \$1,000 for any violation outlined in the bill. To the extent that civil penalties are imposed, there is a potential revenue gain to the state.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Correction and the executive branch director of the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to study the concept of permitting a defendant to attend hearings by video conference and results in no fiscal impact because the departments have the expertise to conduct the study.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the number of certifications, and the number of civil penalties.