AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATED REPORTERS.
As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 5061)
House Calendar No.: 547
Senate Calendar No.: 303

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill establishes a task force, which has no fiscal impact as the agencies involved have the ability to meet the provisions of the bill.

Section 2 creates a new category of mandated reporter for abuse of patients at certain facilities operated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). To the extent that a mandated reporter fails to comply with reporting requirements or intentionally fails to report abuse, this could result in a revenue gain from any fines that are imposed.

Section 3 specifies the actions DMHAS must take when receiving a report of abuse, which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the agency has the ability to comply with the bill’s requirements.

Section 501 requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to conduct an on-site inspection and review of records at Whiting Forensic Hospital, which has no fiscal impact as the agency has the ability to do so.
Sections 502 through 550 make conforming statutory changes to Executive Order No. 63, which designated the Whiting Forensic Division of Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) as a separate entity from CVH, effective 12/31/2017. DMHAS will experience a cost to support necessary staff at the new Whiting Forensic Hospital as well as CVH to ensure the institutions are separate and distinct entities and are able to (1) maintain federal certification and related federal reimbursement at CVH, (2) obtain Joint Commission accreditation, and (3) work towards DPH licensure of Whiting Forensic Hospital. Based on an initial evaluation, the anticipated cost to support thirty employees (including Behavioral Health Clinical Managers, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, and pharmacy staff) is approximately $1 million in FY 19 and $3.1 million in FY 20 when fully annualized (with associated fringe costs of $363,300 in FY 19 and $1.1 million in FY 20). DMHAS may experience a reduction in overtime expenditures associated with hiring additional full-time employees.

Section 551 makes conforming and technical changes and has no fiscal impact.

House "A" removes the requirement in section 1 of the underlying bill that behavior analysts become mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect and instead establishes a task force related to the review of CVH and Whiting, which has no fiscal impact. House "A" adds sections 501 – 551 and results in the associated fiscal impact described above.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to any fines imposed and collected for noncompliance with mandated reporter requirements.