

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7215

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL CLIMATES.

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	85,000	85,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	35,012	35,012

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE <sup>2</sup> - Cost	over 100,000 for small districts to over 1.2 million for larger districts	over 100,000 for small districts to over 1.2 million for larger districts

### **Explanation**

The bill, which makes numerous changes to the laws related to school bullying and safe school climate, results in a cost to the State Department of Education of \$85,000 annually for a full-time Education Consultant position (and corresponding fringe benefits costs of \$35,012, annually). The Education Consultant would be responsible for completing the additional and expanded requirements contained within the bill, including: reviewing safe school climate policies,

<sup>1</sup>The 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 41.19% of payroll in FY 20 and FY 21.

<sup>2</sup> State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

developing a social and emotional learning assessment instrument, and providing training, as needed, to school employees and administrators.

The bill also results in a cost, and corresponding state mandate to local and regional school districts, associated with broadening the definition of bullying and expanding training requirements for both certified and non-certified school employees. It is estimated the total cost would exceed \$100,000 per district, and for larger districts the cost could exceed \$1.2 million. The Safe School Climate Specialist in each school would require additional resources to investigate broadened bullying allegations that fall under the definition of bullying and would not have been covered under the current definition.

Local and regional school districts would require additional resources to fulfill the bill's training requirements. The additional resources would include an increase in substitute coverage while certified employees participate in the training, and additional hourly compensation for non-certified employees completing the expanded training.

The exact magnitude of the state mandate would vary by district according to size, the increased number of bullying allegations, and the manner in which the district implements the changes contained within the bill.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.