

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200  
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

SB-229

## AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF STYROFOAM TRAYS IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 8392), Senate "C" (LCO 8402)  
Senate Calendar No.: 275

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Various - Potential Cost	None	None
Education, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: Various=Various; GF=General Fund

#### **Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	None	None	None

### **Explanation**

The bill strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact. The bill requires each local and regional board of education and constituent unit, by July 1, 2020, to develop a plan for discontinuing trays made from expanded polystyrene. Developing a plan does not result in a fiscal impact as local and regional boards of education and the constituent units have the staff and expertise necessary to do so.

### **The Out Years**

The bill requires that the individual plans for local and regional boards of education and the constituent units discontinue the use of expanded polystyrene trays by July 1, 2021.

This change results in a state mandate and a statewide annual cost

to local and regional school districts, including the Connecticut Technical and Education Career Center, of approximately \$1.98 million to \$2.75 million associated with prohibiting local and regional school districts from entering into purchasing contracts for trays made of expanded polystyrene. The cost per district will vary by the size of the district, the number of trays used, and the specific contract.

It is estimated that replacing polystyrene trays with trays made of recycled materials results in an increased cost of \$18 to \$25 for each case of 500 trays. Connecticut public schools provide 46 million lunches and 18 million breakfasts annually. Assuming that a tray is used for each lunch, the additional statewide cost for purchasing lunch trays made of recycled materials is approximately \$1.66 million to \$2.3 million. Assuming 50% of breakfast meals are served with a tray, the statewide cost for breakfast trays is between \$324,000 and \$450,000.

The cost to each district for purchasing trays made of recycled materials will vary. A small district serving approximately 350,000 meals will incur annual additional costs of approximately \$12,600 to \$17,500. A medium sized district serving 1.8 million meals will incur annual costs of approximately \$64,800 to \$90,000. Larger districts serving 2.5 million meals will incur annual costs of \$90,000 to \$125,000.

If a district instead purchases reusable plastic trays to replace all polystyrene trays, a more significant cost results. It is estimated that reusable plastic trays average \$10-\$12 per tray. In addition to the larger one-time cost of purchasing the trays, districts would incur additional ongoing significant costs related to staff, dishwashing equipment, plumbing, electrical, and maintenance costs.

To the extent that any Board of Regents community college dining facility currently uses expanded polystyrene trays, an increased cost results beginning in FY 22 due to replacing such trays with either trays made of recycled materials or reusable plastic trays. The increased cost would be the same as the costs to school districts described above: \$18 to \$25 per 500 trays if trays made of recycled materials are used, or a cost of \$10 to \$12 for a single reusable plastic tray. No information is

available on whether expanded polystyrene trays are currently used at the community colleges, and if so, the number of trays that would need to be replaced. The bill has no fiscal impact to the University of Connecticut (UConn), the UConn Health Center, or the Connecticut state universities, which do not use such trays.

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Various - Potential Cost	Potential	Potential	Potential
Education, Dept.	GF - None	None	None	None

Note: Various=Various; GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$	FY 24\$
Local and Regional School Districts	None	1.98 - 2.75 million statewide	1.98 - 2.75 million statewide	1.98 - 2.75 million statewide

Senate "A" struck the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and pushed the costs contained in the original bill into the out years, beginning in FY 22.

Senate "C" struck the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and replaced it with the fiscal impacts identified above, and included constituent units of higher education on the discontinuation of the use of expanded polystyrene trays.

*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.*