

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-832

AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRIES OF PERSONS FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSAULTS OR OTHER ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION OR ABANDONMENT OF ELDERLY PERSONS OR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	Less than 150,000	Less than 150,000
Correction, Dept.; Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	less than 250,000	less than 150,000
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There is a cost to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) resulting from the bill, which requires that DESPP create and maintain a registry for offenders of certain crimes against the elderly and disabled. The cost incurred would depend upon if the agency contracted with a third party vendor to create the registry or created the registry internally. For reference, DESPP spends approximately \$150,000 annually in licensing fees and maintenance to a third party vendor for the Connecticut sex offender registry. It is expected that less than 200 offenders will be required to register annually.

The bill also makes violations of the registry a class D felony and results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and Judicial Department and a potential revenue gain from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$1,800 while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$700 each year.

Starting 1/1/20, the bill expands the Department of Public Health's (DPH's) long-term care Applicant Background Check Management System (ABCMS) to include information from the abuse registry established by DESPP per the bill, as well as abuse and neglect registries maintained by the Departments of Developmental Services (DDS), Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and Social Services (DSS). These Departments must begin reporting their registry information to DPH beginning 12/1/19. On 2/1/20 and going forward, DPH must include a link on its website that allows the public to search these registries' data by an individual's name. The ABCMS, however, is not searchable by the public. It was designed as part of a federally-funded national initiative, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and it is restricted to registered users who can access certain personal data of long-term care employment applicants. Scrubbing the private information from existing ABCMS data, and using it as the foundation of a searchable public database that integrates registries from DESPP, DDS, DMHAS, and DSS will result in cost to DPH for a third party vendor to develop and run the database estimated at less than \$250,000 in the first year (FY 20), and a cost of less than \$150,000 annually in licensing fees and maintenance.

There is not expected to be a cost to DESPP for additional enforcement of registrants required in the bill.

The Out Years

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

Sources: Judicial Department Offenses and Revenue Database