

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-957

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM, PROGRAMS OF TEACHER PREPARATION AND ALTERNATE ROUTE TO CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS AND THE CREATION OF AN ADJUNCT COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR PERMIT AND A COMPUTER SCIENCE ENDORSEMENT.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Higher Ed., Off.	GF - Cost	At least 5,000	At least 5,000
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Various - Cost	128,000 to 256,000	128,000 to 256,000
UConn	Various - Cost	45,500 to 200,000	45,500 to 200,000
Higher Education Constituent Units	Tuition Fund - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Cost	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill, which makes several changes related to computer science

¹ 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.

instruction, results in potential costs to various local and regional school districts, a cost to the Office of Higher Education, costs to the higher education constituent units, and a potential revenue gain to the constituent units, annually beginning in FY 20.

Section 4 could result in a state mandate and an additional cost to various local and regional school districts that employ individuals with an adjunct computer science instructor permit. Under the bill districts who employ these individuals must offer them a support services program. The cost to the district will be dependent upon the type of program developed and the number of employees who will be required to use the support program.

Section 3 results in a cost to the Office of Higher Education of \$5,000 for the operation of an alternative route to certification (ARC) program to certify students in computer science. The office would also require an additional \$900 per student plus travel for the practicum related to such certification.

Section 2 results in a cost to the Board of Regents and to the University of Connecticut (UConn), which under the bill will need to add a teacher preparation program course involving programming and coding. The cost may be offset at some universities, to the extent that the bill's course requirement results in additional revenue.

The constituent unit programs do not currently include these skills in their teacher preparation programs, which collectively enroll approximately 2,300 students. The total annual cost among the state universities is anticipated to range from approximately \$128,000 to \$256,000 beginning in FY 20, depending on how the requirement is implemented (e.g., class size and whether the requirement is implemented in the junior year or the senior year in FY 20). The estimate is based on roughly 50 students per three-credit class, at an estimated cost of \$5,200 in wages per course, and a fringe benefits rate

of up to 97.18 percent,² except that due to Central Connecticut State University's high teacher preparation program enrollment, up to 2.5 FTE professors at a salary of approximately \$72,000 would need to be hired. The University of Connecticut's cost to offer the additional course could range from approximately \$45,500 in salary and benefits, using the same methodology, up to roughly \$200,000 if a full professor is hired.

The costs to the constituent units may be borne by the General Fund and/or revenues from students. At a few universities, the total number of credits required to graduate may increase due to the requirement, and therefore tuition paid by these students would also rise. For example, adding a three-credit course at the FY 20 state universities' per-credit rate yields \$741 per student in tuition revenue (excluding any fee revenue).

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of students enrolled at teacher preparation programs at the constituent units.

² The fringe benefit costs for employees funded out of non-appropriated funds are charged to those funding sources, as opposed to the fringe benefit accounts within the Office of the State Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes for non-appropriated fund employees is 97.18% of payroll in FY 20 and FY 21. The fringe benefit impact reflects an upper limit as the funding source for additional personnel is unspecified.