

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-229

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

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 8392

File Copy No.: 563

Senate Calendar No.: 275

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE ¹ - None	None	None

Explanation

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

The Out Years

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.

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The amendment requires that the individual plans for local and regional boards of education 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.

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Above	See Above	See Above

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$	FY 24\$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE - Cost	1.98 - 2.75 million statewide	1.98 - 2.75 million statewide	1.98 - 2.75 million statewide

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.