

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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

sHB-5044

AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 21 \$	FY 22 \$
Public Health, Dept.	IF - Cost	less than 125,000	less than 125,000
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Tuition Fund - Potential Revenue Loss	less than 900,000	less than 900,000

Note: IF=Insurance Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Upon its passage, the bill eliminates religious exemptions (RE) from immunization requirements for individuals attending public and private schools, child care centers, and group and family day care homes. This is anticipated to result in a cost to the Department of Public Health (DPH) of less than \$125,000 annually to purchase vaccines for privately insured children who would not have been vaccinated in the absence of the passage of the bill.^{1,2} It is also anticipated to result in a potential revenue loss of tuition and fees from possible reduced community college enrollment, should prospective students who would have utilized a RE previously continue to choose

¹Funding to vaccinate children that are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured, underinsured, and/or American Indian or Alaska Native is provided by the Federal Vaccines for Children program.

²Should the appropriation for this account be increased in the FY 21 Revised Budget, a corresponding amount of Insurance Fund revenue would be obtained through the adjusted Health and Welfare Fee assessment (CGS Sec. 19a-7j).

not to vaccinate themselves and, therefore, are unable to enroll.

The maximum annual DPH cost projection assumes, based on national 2018 Census data, that 67% of school enterers with RE have private insurance. There were 1,469 RE in Connecticut for the 2019 school year. Assuming the same number of RE in each of FY 21 and FY 22, the maximum number of privately insured individuals that could be vaccinated due to the bill is approximately 989. Currently, the cost to fully vaccinate an insured Connecticut child 0-18 years of age with all recommended vaccines is approximately \$2,400 per child (an average of \$126 annually). The cost to DPH will vary based on several factors, including: (1) the number of privately insured individuals that would have procured a RE that choose to receive DPH-recommended vaccinations, rather than leave the state or become homeschooled, (2) the number of these individuals that are already vaccinated to some extent and for which preventable childhood diseases, (3) the utilization rate of combination vaccines, (4) the types of combination vaccines used, (5) the timing of vaccine administration,³ and (6) the price of vaccines.⁴

The revenue loss to the Board of Regents for Higher Education-Community Colleges' Tuition Fund is potential because it is possible that most, or all, of such prospective new students, will choose to receive vaccinations to enroll. The potential revenue loss may reach \$900,000 annually if few such prospective students choose to comply with the vaccination requirements. This estimate is based on the number of new students enrolled in a community college who have a religious exemption from vaccination requirements (Spring 2020 data), and the FY 21 tuition and fees rate of \$1,869 for 10 credits in a semester (the average credit load of a new community college student).

The establishment of an Advisory Committee on Medically

³A child may need an extra dose of a vaccine depending on the age at which the first dose was administered.

⁴DPH purchases vaccines through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention contract that is negotiated between the vaccine manufacturers and the Federal Government each year. Contracts run April 1st through March 31st.

Contraindicated Vaccinations is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact. Further, there is no fiscal impact anticipated to local and regional boards of education, or the State Department of Education, as the bill does not change administrative procedures.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing cost to DPH identified above would continue into the future subject to: (1) the number of privately insured individuals that would have procured a religious exemption that choose to receive DPH-recommended vaccinations, rather than leave the state or become homeschooled, (2) the number of these individuals that are already vaccinated to some extent and for which preventable childhood diseases, (3) the utilization rate of combination vaccines, (4) the types of combination vaccines used, (5) the timing of vaccine administration, and (6) the price of vaccines. The potential revenue loss to the community colleges will continue into the out years, dependent on the number of prospective community college students that choose not to vaccinate themselves that would have previously obtained a religious exemption, and any changes in the tuition and fees rates.

*Sources: Department of Public Health, Connecticut Vaccine Program
United States Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States:
2018*