

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6374

AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 8158)

House Calendar No.: 214

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 22 \$ | FY 23 \$ |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Legislative Mgmt. | GF - Potential Cost | Minimal | Minimal |
| Board of Regents for Higher Education | Various - Potential Cost | None | Up to 83,000 |
| UConn | Various - Potential Cost | None | None |

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential cost to the constituent units associated with the requirement for all institutions of higher education to survey all students every two years, beginning in FY 23, regarding sexual misconduct climate. The cost is potential because it is dependent on the survey substance and implementation guidelines that will be determined by the legislative council established by the bill. The University of Connecticut will have no survey costs in FY 23 due to preexisting plans but may bear costs in certain out years. The bill also results in a minimal potential cost to the Office of Legislative Management in FY 22 and FY 23, associated with the council.

Section 2 of the bill establishes a Council on Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys, which will be part of the legislative department. The

council members will be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. This potential cost is anticipated to be minimal.

By January 1, 2022, and every two years thereafter, the council will submit a report to the higher education committee including the data points that each institution's survey must encompass, the recommended sexual misconduct climate surveys, and the recommended guidelines for survey implementation.

Section 3 of the bill requires each higher education institution to survey its students regarding sexual misconduct climate in FY 23 and every two years thereafter.

The potential cost of the surveys to the Board of Regents may reach approximately \$83,000 in every survey year (FY 23 and every two years thereafter), based on past similar surveys carried out by a few state universities. For example, Central Connecticut State University (Central CSU) implemented a similar survey in 2020, including students, faculty, and staff. The costs associated with the student survey totaled approximately \$22,450, composed of \$6,875 for the cost of using an established survey and platform, \$5,500 in incentives to encourage completion, and \$10,075 in staff time to prepare, market, and analyze the survey and its results. The survey used by Central CSU has a slightly lower cost for institutions with fewer students, resulting in estimated institution-based total costs for the four CSUs ranging from \$19,950 to \$22,450. However, the cost is potential because if the council prescribes survey data points that are limited in scope, with no survey incentives included in the survey guidelines, then the universities may be able to integrate the sexual misconduct questions into existing survey efforts.

It is anticipated the community colleges (under the Board of Regents) will have no cost due to the bill as they will likely use current personnel and resources, including an online survey license and in-house research staff, to execute the survey.

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the University of Connecticut in FY 23 as the university was already planning to survey its students that year regarding sexual misconduct climate, using an American Association of Universities (AAU) survey. The AAU survey is executed every four years; therefore, the bill will result in no additional cost to UConn in mandated survey years that align with the AAU cycle (FY 23, FY 27, et cetera). The estimated cost of the AAU survey is nearly \$100,000, including completion incentives.

House "A" alters the original bill by changing the composition of the council established by the bill and makes a change to the bill's reporting requirements. These changes have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 24 \$ | FY 25 \$ | FY 26 \$ |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Legislative Mgmt. | GF - Potential Cost | Minimal | Minimal | Minimal |
| Board of Regents for Higher Education | Various - Potential Cost | None | Up to 83,000 | None |
| UConn | Various - Potential Cost | None | Up to 10,000 | None |

Note: GF=General Fund; Various=Various

In odd-numbered out years, the Board of Regents will experience the same potential costs regarding survey administration as in FY 23, subject to inflation. In FY 25 and other survey years that do not align with the AAU cycle, the University of Connecticut is considering using an existing survey with an estimated administration cost of approximately \$10,000 (subject to inflation). However, the cost is potential as whether this survey is used will depend in part on the parameters set by the Council. The potential minimal costs to the Office of Legislative Management, associated with the council, continue into the out years.

Municipal Impact: None