

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6417

AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF YOUTH CAMPS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Emergency Services and Public Protection, Dept.	Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account - Potential Revenue Gain	None	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Cost	None	See Below

Explanation

The bill requires background checks for certain employees of youth camps resulting in a potential revenue gain to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account and a potential cost to municipalities.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) conducts federal background checks for a fee of \$13.25 but

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.

remits the fee to the federal government resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. The federal background checks require fingerprinting, which DESPP conducts for \$15 per person resulting in a potential revenue gain to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account².

The bill results in costs to municipalities that operate youth camps that will vary based on 1) the number of background checks they conduct, and 2) the vendor they use to conduct them. A town that conducts these background checks via the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection would incur a cost of \$13.25 per person for the Federal criminal background check and \$15 per person for fingerprinting. A town that conducts background checks via a third-party vendor could incur costs of \$18 to \$20 per person.

A municipality could at least partially offset this cost if it chose to increase any fees it charges for participation in youth camps.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is in the process of implementing an automated Child Abuse and Neglect Registry system, which will be in place before the bill becomes effective, therefore, no fiscal impact to the agency is anticipated from the bill. DCF does not charge a fee for a check of the Registry.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of background checks and inflation.

² Funds in the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account are used for IT support and maintenance for the fingerprinting systems.