

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6597

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCREDITATION, REPORTING
REQUIREMENTS, MENTAL HEALTH, DATA STORAGE SERVICES
AND TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 9277)

House Calendar No.: 242

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	139,312	143,491
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	57,536	59,262

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
West Haven	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Farmington	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes numerous changes affecting state and local law enforcement resulting in the various impacts described below.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.3% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23.

Primary Analyst: ME
Contributing Analyst(s):
Reviewer: PR

5/26/21

Sections 1-2 require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to develop three tiers of minimum standards and practices for law enforcement units resulting in POST needing to hire two field program assistants for a cost of \$196,848 in FY 22 and \$202,753 (costs include salary and fringe benefits). The new employees are needed to help develop the standards, accredit and reaccredit law enforcement units, and review and certify unit compliance. It's anticipated that 150 law enforcement units will have to meet the new standards, 50 currently meet tier one but approximately 100 would need to start the process from the beginning.

Sections 1 and 2 also result in a potential savings to municipalities from eliminating the requirement that law enforcement units receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc (CALEA) by 2025. There is a cost to receiving accreditation from CALEA related to compliance and payment to CALEA.

There is also a potential cost to any municipality that does not comply with guidance regarding reporting procedure, to the extent that the Office of Policy and Management may withhold state funds from the local law enforcement unit.

Section 3 prohibits a law enforcement unit from disciplining or penalizing a police officer as a result of a behavioral health assessment resulting in no fiscal impact.

Section 4 requires the Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with various agencies to issue a request for proposal for the purchase of body-worn recording equipment, digital data storage devices or services and dashboard cameras to support law enforcement units and police officers resulting in no fiscal impact.

Section 5 requires POST to develop a training curriculum for police officers interacting with people who have mental or physical disabilities resulting in no fiscal impact because POST has the expertise to meet the requirements of this section.

Section 6 and 10 make technical and conforming changes resulting in no fiscal impact.

Sections 7-8 prohibits hiring police officers who were dismissed for malfeasance or resigned or retired while under investigation resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 9 allows the City of West Haven to acquire a mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle from the Town of Farmington. This results in a potential cost to the City of West Haven, and corresponding potential revenue gain to the Town of Farmington that will depend on the provisions of an agreement between the two municipalities for the acquisition of the vehicle.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.