

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-6662

AN ACT DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS AND ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON RACIAL EQUITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	115,000	126,000
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	25,000	None
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	555,000	565,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a twenty-seven-member Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health, to document and make recommendations to decrease the effect of racism on public health. The commission shall be part of the Legislative Department.

The commission, by majority vote and with the assistance of Legislative Management (OLM) shall hire an Executive Director. The Executive Director may hire not more than two executive assistants to assist in carrying out the duties of the commission. This is estimated to cost \$390,000 in FY 22 and \$431,000 in FY 23 for salaries and fringe benefits. OLM will also need consulting assistance to develop a

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.

strategic plan as well as compiling demographic information, estimated to cost \$250,000 annually. The start-up costs for these new employees is estimated to estimated to cost \$30,000 in FY 22 and \$10,000 in FY 23 for laptops, furniture, office supplies, and mileage reimbursement expenses.

The bill also requires the Department of Public Health to study a recruitment and retention program for healthcare workers who are people of color. This provision has no fiscal impact as DPH has the staff expertise to conduct this study.

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to conduct an assessment of racial equity within its environmental health quality programs. It also requires DEEP to submit a report to the Environment Committee including legislative recommendations to improve racial equity within these programs by January 1, 2022. This requirement is anticipated to result in one-time costs to DEEP in FY 22 of up to \$25,000 associated with hiring an outside consultant to perform the racial equity audit as DEEP does not currently have staff with expertise for this purpose.

The Out Years

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