

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6667

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 9988)

House Calendar No.: 422

Senate Calendar No.: 553

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	None	900,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	None	165,200

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes several changes affecting the education and treatment of children in the juvenile justice system and results in the following impact. These changes are all effective October 1, 2022.

Section 2 and 3 requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to create and implement a new education unit within DCF to educate children who are incarcerated or residing in a juvenile justice facility. DCF will need at least five new positions at an approximate annual cost of \$400,000 (plus \$165,200 for fringe benefits) for the new education unit, starting in FY 23.

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.

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Section 6 requires the DCF education unit to use a uniform system of statewide electronic record transfers to maintain and share educational records for children in an education program who are incarcerated or in a juvenile justice facility. This will result in a cost to DCF in FY 23, estimated at more than \$250,000, associated with the software development, contracts, and licensing.

Section 7 requires DCF to immediately notify a student's previous school when a student, who will be educated under the DCF education unit, is placed in a juvenile justice facility or incarcerated. The development of a new system for immediate record transfer is anticipated to result in a cost to DCF in FY 23, estimated at more than \$250,000, associated software development, contracts and licensing.

House "A" changes the effective date for the changes to DCF, removing the cost in FY 22 by delaying implementation.

The amendment removes provisions of the underlying bill which required automatic erasure of certain juvenile police and court records and eliminates the cost to the Judicial Department, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and eliminates the potential cost to municipalities.

The amendment also makes additional changes that do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.