

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-705

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF PANDEMIC AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS.

## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 22 \$</b>	<b>FY 23 \$</b>
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	120,000	125,000
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	690,000	652,000

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to establish an Office of Pandemic and Public Health Preparedness (OPPHP) and to hire an executive director. Under the bill, the OPPHP is responsible for the state's pandemic preparedness, including establishing and maintaining an inventory of necessary medical equipment and medical supplies.

DPH would need to hire three positions to fulfil these requirements. The Executive Director position, with a salary of \$106,000 in FY 22 and \$110,000 in FY 23 would be responsible for conducting an annual inventory of the state's medical stockpile of medical equipment and supplies, and provide updates to the members of the general assembly during declared public health emergencies, as well as preparing a

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<sup>1</sup>The 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.

report annually for joint standing committee of the General Assembly.

The other two positions would be filled by full-time Nurse Consultants, with combined salary of \$184,000 in FY 22 and \$192,000 in FY 23. These two positions would be responsible for assisting the executive director in developing the state's public health emergency plan, developing policies to support and secure the state's medical supply chain, and build infection control capacity and procedures in the areas of infection control staffing and training, use of PPE and outbreak response.

Additionally, DPH needs \$400,000 in FY 22 and \$350,000 in FY 23 for the storage, maintenance and management of medical equipment and supplies. This would cover storage, maintenance and management of ventilators/aspirators, the state's mobile field hospital, and a 250-bed medical station of supplies. This equipment and supplies require temperature and humidity-controlled storage space and annual maintenance. Also, an inventory management system will be required to track the PPE inventory.

The bill establishes an eleven-member committee on Pandemic and Public Health Preparedness to review and advise on the state's planning for and response to pandemics, epidemics and other public health emergencies. The administrative staff of the Public Health and Appropriations committees shall serve as the administrative staff of the task force. This provision has no fiscal impact.

Under the bill OPPHP must develop a proposal for a program to support essential workers in certain industries during and after a pandemic or other public health emergency. This provision has no fiscal impact.

Lastly, the bill results in no fiscal impact to the University of Connecticut, which operates the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, as the laboratory currently carries out most of the responsibilities in the bill with assistance from the Department of Public Health. The laboratory has sufficient resources to notify the

new office and committee created by the bill, when necessary.

***The Out Years***

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