

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-5

AN ACT CONCERNING ONLINE DATING OPERATORS, ONLINE CHILD GROOMING AND HARASSMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING AND PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 5647)

Senate Calendar No.: 379

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	1.44 million	None
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	74,336	74,336
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	30,128	30,128
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes various changes to laws affecting online harassment, domestic violence training, sexual harassment in the workplace, and anti-discrimination protections resulting in various costs and revenue gains to the state, described below.

Sections 1-5 create a regulatory framework for online dating services and allows the Department of Consumer Protection to issue fines resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state to the extent violations

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 40.53% of payroll in FY 23.

occur.

Section 6 establishes a working group to make recommendations on criminalizing child grooming resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 7 establishes a grant program to provide educational and training opportunities with the goal of preventing online abuse and results in a potential cost to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) of \$104,464 (costs include salary and fringe benefits) in FY 23 and FY 24. To the extent funding is appropriated to the grant program, DESPP will have to hire one Emergency Management Program Specialist to run the program. The new employee is responsible for fielding a request for proposals for eligible entities, reviewing all submissions to see if they meet the required criteria, and awarding grant funding.

Sections 8-25 of the bill result in no fiscal impact to the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. It is anticipated that CHRO has the necessary expertise to handle the amendment's requirements.

Section 26 requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to make \$1,440,000 available in FY 23 for domestic violence child and family advocates at domestic violence agencies for the purpose of providing trauma-informed services to children and families experiencing domestic violence. sHB 5037, the revised FY 23 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, appropriates \$1,440,000 to support the cost of 18 child and family advocates at domestic violence shelters across the state.

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

The Out Years

The fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of violations.

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.