

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sSB-450

AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT VALLEY AND WHITING FORENSIC HOSPITALS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.	GF - Cost	150,000	150,000
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	350,000	350,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	136,200	136,200

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) of approximately \$150,000 annually associated with contracted costs for the initial mental health examination conducted on an acquittee committed to DMHAS custody. The bill prohibits such examinations from being performed by any employee of a state psychiatric hospital.

The bill results in a cost of approximately \$350,000 annually to the Department of Public Health (DPH) to license, inspect and investigate complaints at state behavioral health and psychiatric facilities, including Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH), Southwest Connecticut Mental

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.

Health System, Connecticut Mental Health Center, and Capitol Region Mental Health Center. DPH costs reflect support for three Nurse Consultants, a part-time Nurse Consultant Supervisor and a part-time Building and Fire Safety Inspector (with associated fringe totaling \$136,200 annually) to meet the requirements of the bill.

The bill could also result in a cost associated with board activities. The bill replaces the current advisory board for Whiting Forensic Hospital with an oversight board beginning October 2022. While board members cannot receive compensation for their duties, they must be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. It is assumed that DMHAS would be responsible for these costs.

The Out Years

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