

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6663

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENGLISH LEARNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS.

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:***

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 24 \$</b>	<b>FY 25 \$</b>
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Cost	None	Minimal
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

## ***Explanation***

The bill results in a minimal cost beginning in FY 25 and potential costs annually to local and regional boards of education by requiring the State Board of Education (SBE) to create an English learners bill of rights, specifying several of the rights that SBE must include in the document, and requiring annual distribution of the bill of rights.

Costs to districts will vary based on the final document created by SBE and the degree to which districts are required to establish new services or expand services they currently provide.

Districts are currently required by Federal and state law to meet many of the rights specified in the bill. For example, under Federal law,

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<sup>1</sup> State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

translation services must be provided by school districts upon parent request. To the extent that the bill requires school districts to provide translation services regardless of whether a parent requested them, there would be a cost.

Translation services typically cost between \$125 and \$175 per hour with a two-hour minimum. Costs to districts will vary based on the number of instances translation services are provided without parent request, and whether translators, Internet websites, or other types of translation services are used. As the bill does not specify a date by which the bill of rights must be completed, any such costs could begin in FY 24 or FY 25.

The bill requires districts to begin annually providing copies of the bill of rights to eligible students and their parents in FY 25, which will result in annual minimal printing costs to districts.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of English learners and parents requiring services.