

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-6698

AN ACT CONCERNING DRUG POLICY, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND
PEER SUPPORT SERVICES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	Approximately \$225,000	Approximately \$225,000
Governmental Accountability, Off.	GF - Cost	Approximately \$500,000	Approximately \$500,000
Resource of the Opioid Settlement Fund	Opioid Settlement Fund-Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill has a significant and indeterminate cost by creating a new state office within the Office of Government Accountability (OGA). Comparing salaries and costs for similar executive specialized positions such as the Office of the Child Advocate, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the Contracting Standards Board Chair it is estimated that this position would cost the state \$216,471 in salary and benefits annually. The bill also charges the Drug Policy Officer with hiring staff to fulfill their duties. The staff of this office is likely to be a small, specialized staff similar to several offices within OGA. To staff this

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 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

position similarly would require 2 Assistant Drug Policy Officers, 1 Office Manager and 1 Research Analyst. Similar positions and salary and benefit costs are estimated to be around \$540,000 annually. This estimate may also be impacted by the staff sought by the person hired to fill this position and may adjust in line with workload and need. There may be other one-time or ongoing costs for technology, supplies, travel and materials.

Sections 4 and 5 could result in a cost to the Opioid Settlement Fund associated with expanding the peer navigator program. The cost to support at least two peer navigators per community and meet the requirements of the program is anticipated to be approximately \$150,000 to \$175,000 per community. The extent of the cost to implement the program statewide is dependent on the terms and conditions established by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Chief Drug Policy Officer.

The Opioid Settlement Fund is a separate, nonlapsing fund administered by a 37-member Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee with assistance from DMHAS. Expenditures must be approved by the Committee and used only in accordance with the controlling judgment, consent decree, or settlement.

The Out Years

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