

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6719

AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY SERVICES AND INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER, COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS AND NONVERBAL LEARNING DISORDERS.

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	Up to \$43,000	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

### **Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Municipal Police Departments	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

### **Explanation**

The bill addresses emergency services awareness programming for children and adults with autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairments, and nonverbal learning disorders. It results in a one-time cost of up to \$43,000 to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and a potential cost to municipal police departments.

<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.

**Section 1** requires the Departments of Developmental Services, Children and Families, and DESPP to jointly develop guidelines and best practices for awareness programming resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

If a municipality decides to adopt this programming, there will be a potential cost for staffing and training.

**Section 2** requires DESPP to assemble and provide three sensory kits per 10,000 residents of a requesting municipality resulting in a potential one-time cost of up to \$43,000 applied in FY 24 and through the first quarter of FY 25. Each kit will cost up to \$40 and up to 1,080 kits would be required to cover the entire state's population of 3.6 million.

The actual cost will vary depending on how many municipalities apply for kits. DESPP may be able to reduce costs through bulk purchase orders and if private donations are made.<sup>2</sup>

**Sections 3 and 4** require DESPP to develop and distribute a form regarding the covered disorders to municipal police departments resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

These sections also require municipal police departments to enter information recorded on these forms into a searchable electronic database maintained by the department and made available to public safety answering points, resulting in a potential cost to municipalities.

The costs for municipalities to implement these procedures will vary based on the extent to which police departments will have to adjust their current systems and processes.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Some in-state and out-of-state non-profit organizations can offer sensory kits at a lower cost and may donate a limited number of such kits to law enforcement agencies.

<sup>3</sup>At least 30 municipalities in the state already have similar forms and processes in place to incorporate this information into their dispatching procedures.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the costs of municipalities to maintain databases and inflation.