

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1012

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISIONS TO STATUTES CONCERNING CHILDREN.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Savings	20,704	20,704

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which exempts individuals under eighteen years of age that live in a Department of Children and Families (DCF) foster care applicant's home from submitting to state and national background checks and child abuse registry checks, is anticipated to result in a savings to the agency of approximately \$20,704 annually.

The Department's current foster home licensure regulations require state and national background checks and child abuse registry checks for all adults and all adolescents 16 years of age and older, prior to issuance of a placement license. While child abuse registry checks are performed in-house by the agency, state and national background checks are performed by the Connecticut State Police at a cost to DCF of \$32.00 per check. DCF does not track the ages of the individuals for whom background check inquiries have been submitted. It is estimated that approximately 50% of the homes for which licensure inquiries are submitted include at least one adolescent between the ages of 16 and 17. Based on this assumption, with 1,294 licensing requests submitted in FY 22, approximately 647 included at least one 16- or 17-year-old. Not

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performing state and national background checks for these individuals results in a savings to DCF of approximately \$20,704 in each fiscal year.

Other provisions of the bill are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of 16- and 17-years-olds that live in a DCF foster care applicant's home.