

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5437

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 4977)

House Calendar No.: 413

Senate Calendar No.: 422

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	51,500	103,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	21,243	42,487

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Cost	Potential	Potential
Local and Regional School Districts	See Below	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes a variety of changes to education statutes that impact the State Department of Education and local and regional school districts. The impact of these changes is described by section below.

Section 1 establishes the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council. This has no fiscal impact.

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 41.25% of payroll in FY 25.

Sections 2 allows professional development and evaluation committees within local and regional school districts to determine the manner and schedule of professional development requirements in their districts. The amendment requires that each requirement is provided at least once every five years. This potentially shifts the cost of meeting the requirements across fiscal years, to the extent that these committees alter their districts' professional development schedules.

Section 3 makes conforming changes regarding existing trainings for educators and paraeducators. This has no fiscal impact.

Sections 4 - 5 adjust certain training requirements for school resource officers. This has no fiscal impact as it does not affect the cost to local and regional school districts of providing such training.

Section 6 eliminates, for some elementary and secondary school facilities, and delays, for others, a requirement that has not yet taken effect for school facilities serving any grades K-12 that generate a high volume of waste to separate and compost organic waste (i.e., food scraps).

The section limits the number of these facilities that will be required to separate and compost food scraps to such facilities located within 20 miles of a composting facility. For those facilities that must separate and compost food scraps, the requirement is delayed from January 1, 2025 to July 1, 2026.

The section results in: (1) a delay, from FY 25 to FY 27, of any fiscal impacts for local and regional school boards associated with these provisions, and (2) an elimination of fiscal impacts to those facilities that generate a high volume of food scraps and are more than 20 miles away from a composting facility.

Sections 7 - 8 have no fiscal impact. They make procedural changes regarding the administration of local and regional district finances.

Section 9 has no fiscal impact. It makes several changes to high school graduation requirements that are not expected to increase the cost of

curriculum administration or development.

Section 10 has no fiscal impact. It exempts international students enrolled in endowed academies from the requirement to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Sections 11 - 12 make technical changes and have no fiscal impact.

Sections 13 - 19 have no fiscal impact. They make changes regarding school climate and student discipline. These changes are not expected to increase costs to SDE or to local and regional school districts associated with: (1) the provision of services to students who are arrested or receive out-of-school suspensions; or (2) the administration of school climate surveys.

Section 20 results in an annual cost beginning in FY 25 for the State Department of Education to appoint a director of school climate improvement. It is anticipated that SDE will have to hire an employee to fulfill this requirement.

These costs to SDE are expected to be \$51,500 in FY 25 and \$103,000 in FY 26 and annually thereafter. There are corresponding fringe benefit costs of \$21,243 in FY 25 and \$42,487 in FY 26 and annually thereafter. FY 25 costs are in anticipation of a January 1, 2025 hire date.

Sections 21 - 22 have no fiscal impact. The sections require the Connecticut Preschool Through Twenty and Workforce Information Network (P20 WIN) to create a plan to establish a data intermediary to facilitate data sharing across nonprofits, and to annually report regarding disconnected youth. It is anticipated that the network can fulfill these responsibilities with existing resources.

Section 23 has no fiscal impact. It requires local and regional school districts to enter agreements to share certain student data with local youth service bureaus. It is anticipated that school districts can meet these provisions with existing resources.

Section 24 makes technical changes regarding youth service bureaus,

which have no fiscal impact.

Section 25 results in potential costs annually beginning in FY 25 to local and regional school districts. It requires local and regional school districts to expand credit recovery programs available within alternative education to any student who is at risk of not graduating and is enrolled in a traditional education program. To the extent that this requirement increases enrollment in credit recovery programs, districts could incur costs to purchase additional supplies and materials for those classes.

Section 26 makes a technical change regarding a model student work release policy developed by the Chief Workforce Officer. This has no fiscal impact, as it is not anticipated to affect the cost of updating the policy.

Section 27 allows the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education to convene a working group to conduct a review of high school graduation requirements. This has no fiscal impact as it does not establish any new requirements of the State Department of Education or local or regional school districts.

Section 28 allows the Connecticut Education Association to convene a working group to conduct a review of high school grading policies and the accountability index. This has no fiscal impact as it does not establish any new requirements of the State Department of Education or local or regional school districts.

Section 29 establishes a task force to develop recommendations for the creation and administration of a statewide program for bereavement and grief counseling to children and families. This has no fiscal impact.

Section 30 repeals a working group to review mandates on the State Department of Education and local and regional school districts.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and results in the above identified fiscal impact.

The Out Years

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

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.