

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-344

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN FEDERAL VETERANS'
BENEFITS AND INCOME ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS FOR
CERTAIN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in potential costs to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with disregarding certain U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-administered pensions and housebound allowances for veterans or their surviving spouses for purposes of determining income eligibility. By reducing the income that is currently counted towards income limits, the bill potentially increases the number of individuals who could be eligible for various state assistance programs administered by DSS. Relevant programs include Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, State Supplemental Program, State Administered General Assistance, Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, and Connecticut Energy Assistance Program.

For context, there were approximately 140,687 veterans in Connecticut on 9/30/23. The number of veterans participating in the assistance programs specified by the bill is unknown. The impact of the

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bill is dependent on (1) the number of veterans participating in each DSS program, (2) the benefit amount being disregarded, and (3) the income limits of the program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of veterans, their associated benefits and the income limits of relevant DSS programs.