

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-380

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISCIPLINE.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Cost	439,000 – 722,000	139,000 – 277,000
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	51,500	103,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	184,243 – 293,243	96,487 – 151,487

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in significant costs to the state annually beginning in FY 25. It requires: (1) the Judicial Department to provide reports to school superintendents regarding students that have been arrested for certain offenses; and (2) the State Department of Education to appoint a director of school climate improvement. These costs are described in detail below.

Judicial Branch

The bill results in estimated costs to the Judicial Department of between \$439,000 and \$722,000 in FY 25 and between \$139,000 and \$277,000 in FY 26 and annually thereafter. There are corresponding fringe benefits costs of \$163,000 to \$272,000 in FY 25 and \$54,000 to

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.

\$109,000 in FY 26 and annually thereafter.

Due to the July 1, 2024 effective date, it is assumed that the Judicial Department will not have sufficient time to develop a technical solution in the first fiscal year. This results in a higher personnel cost in FY 25 for what is expected to be a highly manual process.² After a technical solution has been produced, it is anticipated that the Judicial Department will be able to reduce personnel costs in FY 26.³

The one-time cost to develop a technical solution is anticipated to be approximately \$14,000 in FY 25.⁴ There are additional one-time costs expected for equipment between \$9,000 to \$15,000 in FY 25.

State Department of Education

The bill results in a cost to SDE of \$51,500 in FY 25 and \$103,000 in FY 26 and annually thereafter. There are corresponding fringe costs of \$21,243 in FY 25 and \$42,487 in FY 26 and annually thereafter. The bill requires SDE to appoint a director of school climate improvement. It is anticipated that SDE will have to hire an employee to fulfill this requirement.

The bill also makes other changes regarding school climate and steps local and regional school districts must take when issuing certain out-of-school suspension. 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 that are arrested or that receive out-of-school suspensions; or (2) administering school climate surveys.

The Out Years

²The positions required would be for a Juvenile Probation Officer Trainee which has an estimated salary of \$66,000. In FY 25, it is expected that the Judicial Department would need between 6 – 10 positions (\$396,000 - \$666,000 for the salaries and other expenses related to the positions between \$20,000 - \$33,000 in FY 25).

³In FY 26, it is expected that the Judicial Department would require between 2 – 4 positions (\$132,000 - \$264,000 for the salaries and other expenses related to the positions between \$7,000 - \$13,000 in FY 26).

⁴This estimate includes approximately 140 hours of development and testing to create a technical solution for the reports.

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