

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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ADDENDUM

To Fiscal Note on
sSB-344, File No. 164

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

The fiscal note for the underlying bill stated there are 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.

According to updated utilization data provided by DSS, the bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) of at least \$2.5 million in FY 25 and \$4.5 million in FY 26 associated with expanding the income disregard as outlined in the bill.

For reference, there are approximately 890 veterans and spouses in Connecticut receiving federal VA pensions. Of the approximately 335 veterans who do not currently receive benefits through DSS, it is assumed that 60% of this population will become eligible for HUSKY C under the provisions of the bill. The current average HUSKY C per member per month (PMPM) state cost is \$1,539.

.Sources: Department of Social Services Caseload Information