

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5436

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 4974

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OFA Fiscal Note

See Fiscal Note Details

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact.

The amendment makes a variety of changes regarding teacher certification, school climate, and the provision of services to certain students. The impact of these changes is described by section below.

Sections 1 - 8 result in a revenue loss to the resources of the General Fund of approximately \$1 million to \$2 million annually beginning in FY 26.

The amendment makes a variety of changes to the educator certification process, including eliminating or reducing certain licensing requirements and associated fees. The elimination and reduction of these fees results in an annual revenue loss of approximately \$1 million to \$2 million to the resources of the General Fund annually beginning in FY 26.

Section 9 makes a change regarding the responsibilities of the Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards. This has no fiscal impact, as it is anticipated that the Council can meet the responsibilities with existing resources.

Sections 10 – 14, and 19 establish a Connecticut Educator Preparation and Certification Board and require the board to develop a variety of reports and proposals regarding a comprehensive update of the educator certification process. Section 19 requires the Office of Policy and Management to reclassify an existing vacant position within the State Department of Education (SDE) for the purpose of staffing the board.

It is anticipated that filling an existing vacant position will result in annualized costs of \$141,250 beginning in FY 26 to SDE. The salary for such a position is anticipated to be \$100,000, with associated fringe benefits costs of \$41,250. FY 25 costs of \$70,625 (\$50,000 for salary and \$20,625 for fringe benefits) are associated with a January 1, 2025 hire date.

Section 15 makes changes to the way edTPA may be used for educator certification and assessment, including by teacher preparation programs. This has no fiscal impact as it does not change any costs associated with such certification or assessment.

Sections 16 and 17 have no fiscal impact. They make changes to the certification process for certain educators at the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System and within comprehensive high schools. These changes do not change any costs associated with such certification.

Section 18 results in a cost to local and regional school districts beginning in FY 25 by reducing the number of hours that certain noncertified school employees must have worked in the prior year in order to qualify for unpaid family and medical leave benefits.

To the extent that a non-certified employee (1) becomes eligible for these benefits due to the bill's lower threshold, and (2) takes unpaid leave, there is a cost to local and regional school districts to provide overtime for covering employees. Any cost is anticipated to be minimal.

Sections 20 - 38 make technical changes which have no fiscal impact.

Section 39 results in a cost of approximately \$10,000 in FY 25 to the Office of the State Comptroller to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of each local or regional board of education providing health coverage under a partnership plan for their employees.

Section 40 requires a teacher to be appointed to the Governor's Workforce Council. This has no fiscal impact as it is not anticipated to change any costs incurred by the Council.

Sections 41 - 50 make various changes to mandated reporter failure offenses. These changes result in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines to the extent that these changes result in more offenses. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300¹ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$800² each year for adults. Few violations are anticipated.³

Section 51 expands the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program within SDE to students in teacher preparation programs who graduated from any Alliance District, rather than any Priority School District (PSD), beginning in FY 25. This opens the program to students from 20 additional school districts and will increase costs. The amount of the increase is dependent on the number of students who apply for and receive the scholarship who graduated from Alliance Districts (that are not also PSDs). The account is currently projected to lapse \$2 million (50 percent of its total appropriation) in FY 24.

Section 52 makes technical changes and has no fiscal impact.

¹Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

²Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

³Since FY 14, less than 40 charges were recorded for similar offenses.

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.