

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-308

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR WHEELCHAIR REPAIR.

AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 4944

File Copy No.: 311

Senate Calendar No.: 212

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***See Fiscal Note Details***

The amendment strikes the language of the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact, replacing it with language anticipated to result in the following fiscal impacts described below by section number. Other provisions of the amendment do not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

**Section 3** results in a potential cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with removing the requirements for (1) prior authorization for medically necessary repairs and replacements of complex rehabilitation technology (CRT) wheelchairs, and (2) a new prescription if the original prescription is less than five years old. The removal of such requirements may result in a cost to DSS to the extent the state experiences an increase in repairs, replacements, and services that would not have otherwise occurred.

**Sections 5-6** result in potential costs to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits account of less than \$100,000 associated with the coverage of claims that would have otherwise been denied. The amendment removes prior authorization and the requirement of a new prescription that is less 5 years old for medically necessary repairs and replacements of CRT wheelchairs. The plans currently provide coverage for these services with the use of prior authorization. The removal of this, and

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new prescriptions can lead to an increase in claims resulting in the additional cost described. Wheelchair purchase claims in the state employee and Partnership plans in calendar year 2022 averaged \$3,900 per claim for power operated wheelchairs. While repair claims were not available at the time of this note, they are assumed to be lower than the average purchase cost.

Fully insured municipalities are likely to see a potential cost to the extent carriers expect to see higher utilization of services or currently do not cover the purchase and repairs of medically necessary CRT wheelchairs. Due to federal law, self-insured health plans are exempt from state health insurance benefit mandates, so potential costs are contingent on the plan electing to adopt the mandate.

*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.*