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FISCAL NOTE(Form 1)  
(Office of Fiscal Analysis)  
Analyst: W/EG 4/9/92  
kr  
Version:

BILL NUMBER: SHB 5015  
FILE NUMBER:  
AMENDMENTS:

TITLE: "AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES AND SYRINGES"

FAVORABLY REPORTED BY Judiciary

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/92 except  
the insurance provisions which  
take effect upon passage

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5015

STATE IMPACT	Potential Minimal Revenue Loss, Potential Minimal Savings, Potential Cost, Minimal Revenue Gain, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	Potential Cost, see explanation below
STATE AGENCY(S)	Judicial Department, Division of Criminal Justice, Department of Insurance, Department of Consumer Protection, Department of Health Services, Comptroller, Department of Revenue Services

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: The passage of the bill would result in a potential minimal revenue loss and potential minimal savings to the Division of Criminal Justice and the Judicial Department. Since the bill decriminalizes the sale and possession of hypodermic needles and syringes, currently a Class C Misdemeanor which carries a fine of up to \$500 and up to a 3 month sentence of imprisonment, the potential for a minimal reduction in caseloads and revenue from fines would exist, but the extent cannot be determined at this time.

There could be a potential cost to the State in the form of higher premiums for health insurance contracts as a result of the passage of this bill.

It is understood that at the present time, State health contracts do not contain coverage for hypodermic needles or syringes prescribed by a licensed practitioner. With these coverages required, there could be more benefits paid which would result in higher premiums.

There is no additional responsibility for the Department of Insurance as a result of the passage of this bill. The Department reviews health insurance coverage at the present time.

As the bill would allow for the over-the-counter sale or purchase of needles and syringes without a prescription, needles and syringes would no longer be eligible for the Sales Tax exemption. A minimal revenue gain would be expected as a result.

Passage of the bill would not impact upon the expenditures of the needle exchange program of the Department of Health Services (DOHS). Currently, the needle exchange program established pursuant to Section 19a-124, CGS, provides needles for exchange without the need of a prescription and the needles are stored as the bill would require. The program is operated within appropriated funding.

Since the bill would not expand the regulatory and enforcement responsibilities of the Department of Consumer Protection with respect to pharmacists, no additional costs are currently expected to result.

MUNICIPAL IMPACT: There could be a potential cost to municipalities in the form of higher premiums for health insurance contracts as a result of the passage of this bill.

It is understood that at the present time, municipal health contracts do not contain coverage for hypodermic needles or syringes prescribed by a licensed practitioner. With this coverage required, there could be more benefits paid which would result in higher premiums.