

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6859

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CERTAIN EVIDENCE AND RECORDS, FIREARM INFORMATION, SECURITY GUARDS, FIREARM TRANSFERS AND SCHOOL SECURITY GRANTS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost Avoidance	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept.	GF - Cost	860,415	110,415
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	44,950	44,950
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Various Municipalities	See Below	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes several changes to the public safety statutes based on the recommendations of Department of Emergency Services and Public

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 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

Protection, resulting in the following impacts.

Section 1, which allows DESPP to transfer sexual assault evidence back to the originating law enforcement agency prior to the conclusion of related criminal proceedings, results in a cost avoidance to the extent that evidence storage needs would have exceeded current storage capacity.

Section 2 allows juvenile case records to be made available to certain individuals while evaluating the proposed transfer of a firearm regardless of age, which results in an approximate one-time cost of \$750,000 in FY 26 to the Judicial Department to contract for the creation of a system for such record evaluation and release. There is also a need for a program manager to oversee this process and perform ongoing related duties resulting in an estimated annual cost of \$110,415 to the Judicial Department and \$44,950 to the Office of the State Comptroller for fringe benefits beginning in FY 26.

Currently, the Judicial Department manually processes these requests for those that are under age 21. It is expected that removing the age threshold of this requirement will significantly increase the workload.²

Sections 6, 7, and 8 make various changes to class E and to class C felonies related to possession and/or sale of a weapon, which results in a potential savings to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue loss to the General Fund from fines.³ On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300⁴ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than

² In FY 24, the Judicial Department received 826 requests for review under CG§ 46b-124(d) resulting in a need for 16 juvenile record reviews.

³ In FY 22-24, there were a total of 2,470 charges and \$1,500 collected in fines under CG§ 53-206, 29-33, and 29-37a.

⁴ Inmate 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.

\$600⁵ each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

Sections 10 and 11 expand eligible uses of funding under the school security grant, which is funded through General Obligation (GO) bonds. Future General Fund debt service costs may be incurred or incurred sooner due to the program's expansion to the degree that it causes authorized GO bond funds to be expended or to be expended more quickly than they otherwise would have been.

As of March 1, 2025, there is an unallocated bond balance of \$20 million for the school security program. The bill does not change GO bond authorizations.

To the extent school districts pursue and are awarded grants under the program expansion, there would be a potential increase in revenue to such districts.

The bill makes various other procedural and conforming changes which are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations and grants awarded.

⁵ Probation 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.