

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-6952

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	43,879	82,758
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	14,810	29,620

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

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

Explanation

The bill makes various changes to statutes concerning certain recreational and educational children's programs, which have fiscal impacts as follows:

Section 1 makes it an unfair trade practice violation for any unlicensed recreational or educational children's program to use the term "camp" in its title, resulting in a potential cost to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and the Office of the State Comptroller. Depending on the number of violations, DCP may have to hire one

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.

special investigator, for a salary and other expenses cost of \$43,879 in FY 26² and \$82,758 in FY 27, along with associated fringe benefit costs of \$14,810 in FY 26 and \$29,620 FY 27.

Section 2 results in no fiscal impact to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) from conducting criminal history records checks. This section also results in no potential revenue gain to DESPP or municipal police departments for fingerprinting.³

The potential number of additional child abuse registry checks requiring Department of Children and Families (DCF) staff review is not anticipated to be great enough to necessitate additional resources. The department processes over 210,000 child abuse registry checks annually. DCF does not charge a fee for a registry check.

Section 3 results in a potential cost to various municipalities, beginning in FY 26, to the extent that additional staff is required to meet the staffing ratio requirement of one staff person per twelve children. Municipal recreational or educational children's programs with staffing ratios of at least 1:12 will not be affected by this requirement.

Section 4, which makes any paid director, assistant director, or staff of a municipal recreational or educational children's program, age 21 or older, a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect, does not result in a fiscal impact. It is anticipated that any resulting increase in mandated reports can be accommodated within DCF's routinely budgeted resources.

Section 5, which requires DCF to notify municipal leaders of reports made pursuant to Section 4, results in no fiscal impact. The department

²The potential costs in FY 26 reflect a half year of expenditures due to violations beginning on January 1, 2026.

³ While Section 2 does allow municipal employers to request criminal history checks through the State Police or from a third-party national criminal history check provider, it is unlikely that any municipal employer will choose these options as the section provides a free option that does not require fingerprinting. Though some municipal employers may already require fingerprinting for state and national criminal history checks as a condition of employment, it is unlikely that this section will change current hiring practices.

routinely provides similar notice to law enforcement, school leaders, and directors of institutions or facilities that care for children, and can provide redacted notice, as required by the bill, without undue burden.

Section 6 requires each new mandated reporter (added in Section 4) to complete, by 7/1/26 and annually thereafter, DCF's initial or refresher training program. This results in no cost to the state or municipalities. The department currently offers online training at no fee to participants.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of required staff.