

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◇ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-7106

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS OF AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WHEELCHAIR REPAIR.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
Healthcare Advocate, Off.	IF - Cost	5,000 - 10,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund; IF=Insurance Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) related to expanding Medicaid coverage for wheelchair repairs and related transportation, annual preventive maintenance, and certain delivery costs. The extent of the costs is based on the frequency of repairs, maintenance, delivery and transportation costs and rates paid for services not currently covered under Medicaid, which cannot be determined at this time.

Section 2 mandates coverage of medically necessary wheelchairs and timely repair of such wheelchairs for enrollees on the state employee health plan which does not result in a fiscal impact as the plan already meets these requirements.

Section 4 requires the Office of the Healthcare Advocate to conduct a public awareness campaign concerning wheelchair repair laws. This results in a one-time cost of approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the

Primary Analyst: ES
Contributing Analyst(s): AB, LD, ME, NN
Reviewer: RW

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Insurance Fund in FY 26 associated with hiring a firm to run the campaign. Depending on the size of the campaign, the cost could be significantly higher.

Section 4 may also result in Medicaid savings or payment recoupment by DSS associated with wheelchair dealers whose repair records for Medicaid-funded wheelchairs meet the definition of noncompliance. The bill allows but does not require DSS to recoup or withhold such payments.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the frequency and extent of wheelchair repairs and related costs supported by Medicaid payments.