

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7157

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 10027)

House Calendar No.: 389

Senate Calendar No.: 586

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	25,000	None
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	At least 100,000	None
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	GF - Revenue Loss	5,750	5,750
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes various revisions to the public health statutes, which result in fiscal impacts as described below.

Section 1 prohibits the Chief Medical Examiner's Office from charging immediate family members of a deceased minor for copies of the minor's investigation record. This results in an annual revenue loss to the office of approximately \$5,750¹ beginning in FY 26, subject to the annual number of minor death investigations and related record

¹ Assumes an estimated 115 investigations of deceased minors annually, with one record requested each at a current cost of \$50 per record request.

requests.

Section 2 allows emergency medical services personnel to administer epinephrine using any device approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, including nasal spray. This results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

Section 3 requires licensed physical therapists to annually complete at least two hours of education or training on ethics and jurisprudence as part of their existing continuing education requirement. This results in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 4 makes it an unfair trade practice violation for health care providers to require certain forms of patient payment methods to be kept on file, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. The Department of Consumer Protection enforces unfair trade practice violations and has the resources and expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

Sections 5 - 17 and Section 24 update patient confidentiality requirements for psychologists and result in no fiscal impact.

Section 18 increases the maximum civil penalty that the Department of Public Health (DPH) may impose against individual health care providers by \$15,000 (from \$10,000 to \$25,000), which may result in a revenue gain to the General Fund beginning in FY 26. The extent of the revenue gain, if any, is dependent on the number of violations and the department's discretion regarding civil penalties.

Section 19 extends the date by which health care employers must annually report to DPH on workplace violence incidents and results in no fiscal impact.

Section 20 authorizes MRI and radiologic technicians to perform certain oxygen-related patient care activities in hospitals, which results in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 21 changes the biannual reporting dates for a hospital's nurse staffing plan to be given to DPH, which results in no fiscal impact.

Section 22 allows a DPH-licensed hospital to provide inpatient or outpatient mental health services without having to obtain a license from the Department of Children and Families (DCF). A potential workload reduction will result for DCF to the extent that hospitals operating outpatient psychiatric clinics for children or extended day treatment facilities choose to not renew or pursue DCF-licensure, but no savings are anticipated.²

Section 23 requires DPH to establish a process to request a short-form death certificate that does not include the decedent's cause of death, which results in a one-time General Fund cost of \$25,000 in FY 26 necessary to develop and modify the Electronic Death Registry System.

Sections 24 - 42, which make various grammatical and technical changes to statute, result in no fiscal impact.

Sections 43 and 44 authorize the Commissioner of Public Health to disclose information and data from the Infant Mortality Review Program to the Child Advocate, as well as authorize the Child Advocate to share information with the Commissioner about infant deaths as related to the program. This results in no fiscal impact, as it allows for the exchange of data between the two agencies to better inform their existing work.

Section 45 expands the scope and responsibilities of the Working Group to Study Pediatric Hospice Services, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. The working group has the necessary expertise and resources to carry out the required duties.

Section 46 directs the Governor to proclaim an annual Connecticut Liver Health Day, resulting in no fiscal impact.

Sections 47 - 48 require the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to study various changes to how patient information is shared with the Statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE), as well as what kind of information is available. This study can be completed by the Health Information

² Current DCF licensees include six that are affiliated with hospitals.

Technology Advisory Council with support from the HIE and does not have a fiscal impact. These sections additionally make various technical changes to the statutes regarding the HIE and its duties, which do not result in a fiscal impact.

Section 49 establishes a working group to assess and provide recommendations regarding: (1) regulatory requirements concerning sewage disposal; and (2) balancing the costs associated with the development of housing and a risk-based approach to protecting public health and the environment. This results in no fiscal impact, as the working group has the expertise needed to meet the requirements of the amendment.

Section 50 extends the deadline for the Commissioner of Public Health to provide notice of intent to amend regulations concerning small community sewerage systems and certain subsurface sewage disposal systems until July 1, 2026. This results in no fiscal impact.

Section 51 requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish a mental and behavioral health awareness and treatment pilot program in Priority School Districts. This results in a cost to SDE that may exceed \$100,000 in FY 26 to purchase an electronic mental and behavioral health treatment tool. The cost is dependent on the tool SDE chooses to provide and any associated contracts.

Section 52 eliminates privileged communications between psychologist and patient, resulting in no fiscal impact. Additionally, the amendment makes various other clarifying, definitional, and technical changes which result in no fiscal impact.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and the associated fiscal impact, and replaces it with the fiscal impacts as described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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.