

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-7236

AN ACT CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Human Rights & Opportunities, Com.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill 1) expands what is a "discriminatory practice" for the purpose of Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) laws, 2) expands certain criminal charges ranging from a class D misdemeanor to a class D felony, and 3) prohibits discrimination by state agencies based on victim status for sexual assault and human trafficking. The fiscal impacts are described below.

CHRO Discriminatory Practice

The bill expands what is a "discriminatory practice" for the purpose of CHRO laws to include protections for sexual assault and human trafficking victims resulting in a potential cost¹ to CHRO and potential

¹ This cost is associated with additional staff time, materials, and resources to facilitate additional proceedings.

revenue to the General Fund.

The exact cost will depend on the number of additional cases brought due to the legislation. The exact revenue would depend on the number of additional fines imposed due to the legislation.

Criminal Penalties

The bill expands certain criminal charges for discrimination that range from a class D misdemeanor to a class C felony which results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300² while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600³ each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles. Few, if any, additional violations are anticipated.⁴

Prohibition of Discrimination by State Agencies

The bill prohibits discrimination by state agencies based on victim status for sexual assault and human trafficking regarding public benefits, educational programs, state employment, contracts, etc. To the extent that this requires any state entity to alter their current practice, there may be a potential cost beginning in FY 26.

The bill makes various other changes that do not result in a fiscal

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ From FY 20 -24, there were 17 charges recorded and no associated revenue collected under CGS § 46a-58. No charges were recorded, nor revenue collected under CGS §§ 46a-64c nor 46a-64(a).

impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years

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