

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7255

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES AND THE DUTIES OF JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 8598)

House Calendar No.: 484

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	up to 164,393	up to 316,785
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	up to 94,177	up to 136,104
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

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 concerning Judicial Branch operations resulting in the following impacts.

Section 1 creates the Office of Information Privacy (OIP) within the Judicial Department which results in a potential cost of up to \$164,393 in FY 26 and up to \$316,785 in FY 27 to the Judicial Department for up

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.

to 3 new positions² as well as associated other expenses and a potential cost of up to \$94,177 in FY 26 and up to \$136,104 in FY 27 to the Office of the State Comptroller for associated fringe benefits. The FY 26 estimate is adjusted for partial year implementation and includes a one-time equipment cost of \$2,000 per position.

OIP is authorized, at the request of the eligible individual³, to direct public entities to remove or to not publish specific personal information and to inform public entities when that personal information is no longer protected.

This section may also result in a potential cost to municipalities and to various state agencies beginning in FY 26 to the extent they require additional information to redact certain information.

House "A" eliminates or modifies costs identified in the underlying bill by 1) altering the language in section 1 to authorize rather than require OIP to perform certain duties, 2) striking section 24 and replacing with language that creates a taskforce on habeas corpus procedures, and 3) making various technical, clarifying, and procedural changes, resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the discretion of the Judicial Department to perform certain duties, and the Office of Information Privacy caseload.

² It is expected that the Judicial Department may require a Deputy Director, a Court Planner, and a Chief Judicial Marshal to fulfill the requirements of the bill. The annual salaries for these positions are \$119,425, \$86,553, and \$106,307 respectively.

³ It is anticipated that at least 390 Judicial employees and their household members will be eligible for this service.