

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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

sHB-7259

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS STATUTES CONCERNING CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Mental Health & Addiction Serv., Dept.; Social Services, Dept.; Developmental Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost/Savings	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Impact	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill makes various changes to criminal justice laws, resulting in the following fiscal impacts.

Section 3 reduces the penalty for a first offense of failure to appear in the second degree from a class A misdemeanor to a class D misdemeanor. Subsequent offenses continue to be a class A misdemeanor. This results in a potential savings to the Judicial Department for probation and a potential revenue loss to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600¹ each year for adults and \$450 each year for

¹ 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

juveniles.

Section 5 requires that individuals receive a sentence reduction for their time of imprisonment in other states under certain circumstances, resulting in a potential savings to the Department of Correction, to the extent that these individuals spend less time incarcerated in Connecticut correctional facilities. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300.²

Section 9 results in a cost to the state associated with expanding a pretrial diversion program to include individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The bill requires the Departments of Developmental Services (DDS), Social Services (DSS) or Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to assist CSSD with assessing individuals and identifying appropriate treatment and services.

Under the current diversionary program, CSSD determines eligibility, conducts assessments and identifies appropriate services. Under the bill, DDS, DSS and DMHAS are anticipated to incur (1) administrative costs of at least \$91,200 (with associated fringe of approximately \$37,100) for staff to assist with assessments, identify services and establish treatment plans, and (2) programmatic costs to support treatment for such individuals to the extent that is required. For context, residential program services provided under DDS cost approximately \$530,000 per bed.

The extent of the actual cost depends on (1) the number of individuals with intellectual disabilities or ASD eligible for diversion, (2) the agency responsible for assessments and related requirements, and (3) the extent to which new diversionary programs are required to support this

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.

² Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.).

population.

Section 10 increases penalties under the Liquor Control Act to class C misdemeanors for a first offense and class B misdemeanors for subsequent offenses in a potential cost to the Judicial Department for probation and a potential revenue impact³ to the General Fund from fines.

Section 11 creates a new class C misdemeanor for knowingly allowing a person under legal age to engage in online gaming or terrain sports wagering in a potential cost to the Judicial Department for probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines.

The bill makes various other changes that are not anticipated to result in an impact to the state.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of sentence reductions and violations.

³ Under current law, these violations may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000. Under the bill, such violations would be subject to a fine of up to \$500 for the first offense and up to \$1,000 for subsequent offenses.