

## OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-3

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SAFETY.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 8599)

Senate Calendar No.: 313

### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Cost	None	187,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	None	70,155
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

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 regarding consumer protection statutes resulting in the impact described below.

**Sections 1, 2, 7** make various requirements regarding total price disclosure, connected device disclosure, and automatic renewals and make violations an unfair trade practice resulting in a cost to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). To meet the requirements of the bill DCP will have to hire one special investigator and one staff

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<sup>1</sup>The 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.

attorney for a salary and other expenses cost of \$187,000 in FY 27<sup>2</sup> and associated fringe benefit costs of \$70,155 in FY 27. The additional employees are needed to review complaints and conduct investigations for any violations of these sections.

**Sections 3 and 5** make various right to repair and price gouging regulations and make violations an unfair trade practice enforced solely by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) resulting in no fiscal impact to the state. The OAG has the resources and expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

**Section 5** also removes a \$99 fine for price gouging violations resulting in a potential minimal revenue loss to the state to the extent violations occur.

**Section 4** requires municipalities to register a ".gov" internet top-level domain and redirect any existing Internet web site addresses maintained by such municipality to the new ".gov" domain. This results in a potential cost to various municipalities in FY 25 to the extent they do not have the necessary staff to transition to a .gov domain.

**Section 9** requires the Department of Housing (DOH) to create a form to be posted online which is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as DOH has the expertise necessary to meet this requirement.

This section also makes certain requirements of landlords which does not result in a fiscal impact as the state is not a direct residential landlord.

Additionally, the section allows tenants to bring an action in Superior Court for violations of this bill. The court system disposes of over 250,000 cases annually and the number of cases is not anticipated to be great enough to need additional resources.

Senate "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact

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<sup>2</sup>Costs begin in FY 27 due to the 7/1/2026 effective date of these sections.

resulting in the impact described above.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to employee wage increases and 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.*