

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1489

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL POLICE FORCES.

## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

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

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	Up to 330,000	Up to 330,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Potential Cost	Up to 147,000	Up to 147,000

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** See Below

### ***Explanation***

The bill allows certain municipalities to form regional police forces, resulting in the following fiscal impacts.

**Section 1** may result in a cost to municipalities with a population of 50,000 or less beginning in FY 26 that choose to form a regional police authority, to the extent that resources are used to establish the authority and apply to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP).<sup>2</sup>

If DESPP receives enough applications to form regional police forces, they may need to hire one Associate Accountant and one State Police

<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.

<sup>2</sup> According to the Department of Public Health, in 2023 there were 150 municipalities with a population of 50,000 or less.

Lieutenant to review and make recommendations on such applications. This results in a potential cost of \$240,000 in FY 26 and FY 27 to DESPP and \$110,364 to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits.<sup>3</sup>

**Section 2**, which requires DESPP to administer a grant program for various costs associated with establishing a regional police force, results in a potential significant cost to DESPP and a potential revenue gain to eligible municipalities beginning in FY 26 to the extent that DESPP allocates funding for this purpose.

It is estimated that grants for the costs associated with the transition to and ongoing operations of a regional police force, the construction of its facilities, and law enforcement equipment will cost tens of millions of dollars per regional police force. If DESPP receives enough grant applications, the agency may need to hire one Grants and Contracts Specialist. This results in a potential cost of \$90,000 in FY 26 and FY 27 to DESPP and \$36,639 to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits.

Municipalities with a population of 30,000 or less are prioritized for grant funding and are more likely to see a revenue gain.<sup>4</sup>

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

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of regional police forces formed and inflation.

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<sup>3</sup> The estimated salary of these positions is \$90,000 and 150,000 with fringe benefits rates of \$36,639 and \$73,725, respectively

<sup>4</sup> According to the Department of Public Health, in 2023 there were 137 municipalities with a population of 30,000 or less.