

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-1500

AN ACT CONCERNING VERIFICATION OF SEXUAL OFFENDER
REGISTRANTS' ADDRESSES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	25,000	None
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	58,500	117,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	22,798	45,595
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	FF - Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund; FF=Federal Funds

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill (1) requires the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to create and implement a system allowing sex offender registrants to verify their residential address over the phone and (2) lowers the penalty for a registrant's unintentional failure to verify their address from a felony to an infraction, resulting in the

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.

following impacts.

To create and implement a system allowing registrants to verify their residential address by phone, DESPP will incur a one-time cost of \$25,000 to modify their Offender Watch System.

To the extent that registrants begin reporting their address verification by telephone, DESPP may need to hire up to two processing technicians to receive and record such information, resulting in a potential cost to DESPP of \$58,500 in FY 26 and \$117,000 in FY 27 and a potential cost to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits of \$22,798 in FY 26 and \$45,595 in FY 27.² Equipment costs for these positions are not expected to exceed \$5,000 annually. The FY 26 potential costs reflect the bill's partial-year implementation.

There is a potential savings to DESPP to the extent that telephonic verification will offset current verification processes performed by DESPP employees.

If the bill's provisions affect the state's compliance status with the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA), there is a potential revenue loss of federal grants received under such act.³

The bill also lowers the penalty for a registrant's unintentional failure to verify their address from a felony to an infraction, which results in potential savings to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation.⁴ On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300⁵ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than

² The annual starting salary for a Processing Technician is estimated to be \$56,000.

³ In the past eight fiscal years, DESPP has received an average of \$142,000 annually in SORNA grants.

⁴ In FY 22 – FY 24, there were 2,600 charges recorded and \$8,670 in associated revenue collected under CGS §§ 54-251 through 54-254. Less than 20 offenders are currently incarcerated under these statutes.

⁵ Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.).

\$600⁶ each year for adults.

Finally, the bill results in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from infractions. Infractions are not crimes and are punishable by fines that usually range from \$100 to \$300.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of infractions and telephonic address verifications.

⁶ 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.