

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-7214

## AN ACT CONCERNING MATERNAL HEALTH. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 8569

File Copy No.: 689

House Calendar No.: 429

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

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

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - Cost	66,400	79,700
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	23,600	32,300

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

#### ***Explanation***

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated impact.

The amendment, which includes various provisions regarding maternal health, results in a total cost to the General Fund of \$90,000 in FY 26 and \$112,000 in FY 27 and annually thereafter as described below. The cost is associated with the maternal health report card for certain health care facilities.

**Section 1** requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to convene an advisory committee to study and make recommendations on (1) improving perinatal mental health care services, and (2) the benefits and challenges of making hospitals more

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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.

doula-friendly, which results in no fiscal impact. The advisory committee has the expertise needed to meet the requirements of the bill.

**Section 2** requires the DPH commissioner to create an annual maternity care report card for birth centers and hospitals that provide obstetric care, as well as establish an advisory committee to support this work. This results in a cost to DPH of \$66,400 in FY 26 and \$79,700 in FY 27 (and annually thereafter), with an estimated cost to the Office of the State Comptroller for associated fringe benefits of \$23,600 in FY 26 and \$32,300 in FY 27 (and annually thereafter). FY 26 costs assume an October 1 start date for all staff.<sup>2</sup>

To develop the report card, DPH requires two half-time positions: (1) a Health Program Associate, at an annualized salary of \$35,800 (plus \$14,600 annualized fringe benefits) to coordinate the advisory committee and perform related administrative duties; and (2) an Epidemiologist 3, at an annualized cost of \$43,500 (plus \$17,700 annualized fringe benefits) to identify, collect and analyze data necessary to complete the report card.

Other expenses include a one-time total cost of \$8,400 in FY 26 for laptops and related hardware, and ongoing annual costs of \$400 for software and general office supplies.

*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.*

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<sup>2</sup> FY 26 staff costs total \$58,000 with \$23,600 in associated fringe benefits.