

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-3

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION AND SAFETY. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 8449

File Copy No.: 570

Senate Calendar No.: 313

OFA Fiscal Note

See Fiscal Note Details

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact resulting in the following impact.

The amendment makes various changes regarding consumer protection statutes resulting in the impact described below.

Sections 1, 2, 8 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 attorney for a salary and other expenses cost of \$187,000 in FY 27¹ 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

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

requirements of the bill.

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 7 requires the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) to develop and administer the Net Equality Program to provide affordable broadband Internet to eligible families receiving certain government assistance. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as OCC has the staff and expertise necessary to administer the program.

Section 10 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.

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.