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sSB-6
AN ACT CONCERNING RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS AND DISCONNECTED YOUTHS.
AMENDMENT
LCO No.: 8279
File Copy No.: 199
Senate Calendar No.: 149

OFA Fiscal Note

See Fiscal Note Details

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and the associated fiscal impact. The amendment results in the following fiscal impacts:

Section 4 expands eligible uses of funding under the Smart Start capital grant, which is funded through General Obligation (GO) bond funds. Future General Fund debt service costs may be incurred or incurred sooner due to the program's expansion to the degree that it causes authorized GO bond funds to be expended or to be expended more quickly than they otherwise would have been.

As of March 1, 2025, there is an unallocated bond balance of $45 million for the Smart Start capital grant. The bill does not change GO bond authorizations.

To the extent school districts pursue and are awarded grants under the program expansion, there would be a potential increase in revenue to such districts.

Section 4 also results in a cost to OEC related to 1) increasing operating expense grants from $5,000 to $7,000 per child served by the grant, or 2) from $75,000 to $105,000 per preschool classroom for a period of five years. The total cost is dependent on the number of grants issued.

Sections 5 and 6 require municipal youth camps to obtain a license from OEC and extends various licensure requirements including immunizations, medication administration inspections, and criminal background checks to the municipal youth camps. This results in a cost to various municipalities beginning in FY 26 for the license fee and resources to meet the other licensure requirements.1 Municipalities that do not have municipal youth camps will have no fiscal impact.

OEC would also incur total costs of at least $1.8 million in FY 26 and FY 27 to create a unit to license municipal youth camps. These costs are driven primarily by new staffing, of which approximately $1.2 million is for salaries and $300,000 is for associated fringe benefits. At least $300,000 is also needed for additional operational costs, including car rentals, fuel, and IT support.

The new full-time positions include at least: 1) one Social Services Program Manager ($116,635 base salary and $47,482 in associated fringe benefits), 2) two Child Care Licensing Supervisors ($103,295 base salary and $42,051 in associated fringe benefits), 3) two Environmental Sanitarian 1s ($72,552 base salary with $29,536 in associated fringe benefits), 4) two Processing Technicians ($63,748 base salary with $25,952 in associated fringe benefits), and 5) one Secretary 2 ($63,748 base salary with $25,952 in associated fringe benefits).

The new part-time positions include at least: 1) two 24-week Environmental Sanitarian 1s, 2) 20 8-week Environmental Sanitarian 1s, and 3) two 8-week Processing Technicians.

Section 7 results in potential savings beginning in FY 26 to municipalities to the extent that they had previously employed a physician or advanced practice registered nurse for the purpose of staffing a municipal youth camp and do not going forward.

[1] License fees are $815 for for-profit camps and $315 for nonprofit camps. These must be renewed annually.

Section 10 results in a cost in FY 26 and FY 27 to OEC of approximately $208,788 to hire one Associate Research Analyst to collect data and conduct a quarterly review to determine how many children referred to the Birth-to-Three were deemed ineligible, and the reasons for their ineligibility. For reference, the average starting salary is $148,382 with associated fringe benefits of $60,406.

Section 12 results in a cost in FY 26 to OEC of at least $200,000 to hire a consultant to design, develop, and conduct a study of the Sparkler app metrics outlined in this section.

Sections 1-3, 8-9, and 11 make technical, clarifying, or conforming changes that do not result in a fiscal impact.