

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-1541

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE CORRECTION  
OMBUDS, DISCLOSURE OF DISCIPLINARY MATTERS OR  
ALLEGED MISCONDUCT BY A DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
EMPLOYEE AND USE OF FORCE AND BODY CAMERAS IN  
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

## AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 10674

File Copy No.: 800

House Calendar No.: 646

Senate Calendar No.: 419

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

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

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Emergency Services and Public Protection, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Governmental Accountability, Off.	GF - Cost	166,531	155,031
Governmental Accountability, Off.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Revenue Loss	See Below	None
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	63,113	63,113

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

#### ***Explanation***

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and results in the fiscal

<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.

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impacts described below.

**Section 2-4**, of the amendment empowers Office of the Correction Ombudsman (OCO) within the Office of Governmental Accountability (OGA) to conduct informal hearings and issue subpoenas for investigation under certain circumstances requiring two additional employees<sup>2</sup> resulting in a cost to OCO of \$160,031 in FY 26 and \$155,031 in FY 27, and an associated fringe benefit cost of \$63,113 in FY 26 and FY 27.

Additionally, this section requires the OCO to provide at least one of three confidential means of communication to receive complaints<sup>3</sup> resulting in a cost of up to \$6,500 in FY 26. The exact cost will depend on the method chosen.

This cost is associated with the expanded investigative role of OCO, the additional labor and administrative support required to conduct informal hearings and to receive testimony and material as investigations require.

This section also results in a potential cost to OCO related to the conduct of informal hearings, because the bill requires that these hearings be conducted at a time that does not interfere with corrections facility operations. The exact cost would depend on the number of informal hearings conducted and the associated overtime and material cost required.

**Section 7** results in a one-time potential revenue loss to the General Fund and to the Applicant Fingerprint Card Submission Account within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) in FY 26, by waiving the criminal history record check fee and

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<sup>2</sup> This includes an Assistant Correction Ombudsman at an annual salary cost of \$91,254 and an Administrative Assistant at an annual salary cost of \$63,777.

<sup>3</sup> This includes through electronic means, secured lock boxes, or a hotline to call the OCO. The total cost to install a secured lock box in each facility, is \$6,500. The cost to create a hotline, is expected to be minimal as the phones are already installed in the facilities.

fingerprint fee for certain individuals.

**Section 8** results in a potential cost to DESPP beginning in FY 26 to the extent that the department is required to hold more criminal erasure hearings.

*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.*