

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5460

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE FIRE PROTECTION.

## OFA Fiscal Note

### State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Cost	Approximately 952,066	Approximately 1,030,957
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	Approximately 359,813	Approximately 465,363
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Comptroller	GF - Cost	Approximately 156,000	Approximately 156,000

Note: GF=General Fund

### Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE <sup>2</sup> - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
All Municipalities	Revenue Gain	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

### Explanation

<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 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

<sup>2</sup> State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

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The bill creates and expands several fire protection programs resulting in fiscal impacts to both the state and municipalities. These impacts, described section-by-section below, should be considered approximate and will depend on implementation decisions made by the relevant state agencies and municipalities.

**Section 1** requires all municipalities to establish a local fire protection plan, submit such plans to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) for review, and register with the National Emergency Response Information System by July 1, 2027.

This section results in a potential cost to municipalities in FY 27 to the extent additional resources are necessary to meet these requirements. It also requires municipalities to review and revise local fire protection plans once every five years which may result in a potential cost to municipalities in the out years.

This section results in a cost to the state in FY 28<sup>3</sup> of up to \$260,546 for salaries and expenses,<sup>4</sup> as well as \$90,141 for fringe benefits, for up to three new positions within DESPP to review and assign a rating to the local fire protection plans and to conduct on-site reviews and audits. If field work is not deemed necessary, fewer positions may be needed.

**Section 2** expands the duties of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control within DESPP to include the establishment of a classification system for evaluating and grading the performance of municipal fire services and the development of standardized emergency response protocols. It is expected DESPP would need one new position beginning in FY 27 to develop and maintain this system and protocols, resulting in a cost of \$94,635 for salaries and expenses and \$33,303 for fringe benefits.

**Section 3** requires all municipalities to meet certain requirements

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<sup>3</sup> These costs are not expected until FY 28 because it is anticipated that the local fire protection plans will not be submitted to DESPP for review until that time.

<sup>4</sup> Each new DESPP position requires approximately \$15,000 in one-time other expenses for office supplies, IT equipment, telecoms, and related items.

related to fire protection including providing facilities necessary for a municipality's fire protection services. This results in a potential cost to municipalities beginning in FY 27 to the extent they do not already provide these services.

**Section 4** establishes a new Deputy State Fire Administrator position within DESPP, resulting in annual costs of \$167,381 for salaries and expenses and \$61,635 for fringe benefits.

**Section 5** establishes the "Connecticut Fire" program within DESPP to establish a framework for the state to provide administrative and operational assistance to municipalities. The Deputy State Fire Administrator position established in Section 4 of the bill will oversee the program. Depending on how DESPP implements Connecticut Fire, the agency may require at least one additional position to manage the program resulting in costs beginning in FY 27 of \$97,055 for salaries and expenses and \$34,315 for fringe benefits.

**Section 6** requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to establish a Connecticut Fire grant program to incentivize regionalized services and resource sharing. This results in a potential cost to OPM to the extent additional resources are necessary to establish and manage the grant program. There is also a cost to OPM and corresponding revenue gain to municipalities associated with the grant program. The bill does not specify a funding source for the grant program.

**Section 7** establishes a working group to develop the administrative, operational, fiscal and personnel framework for the Connecticut Fire program, and does not result in a fiscal impact because the members of the working group are anticipated to have the necessary expertise.

**Section 8** establishes five regional fire coordinator positions within DESPP, resulting in a cost of \$530,340 for salaries and expenses and \$179,968 for fringe benefits.

**Section 9** requires DESPP to establish and maintain a system for collecting computer-aided dispatch data from municipalities

throughout the state for the purposes described in the bill. Depending on whether new software is needed to collect the required data and the complexity of current data collection practices, this section could result in system development costs of at least \$100,000 in FY 27, with potential maintenance costs in future years.

**Section 10** results in a cost of approximately \$220,000 annually beginning in FY 27 to the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) for salary and associated fringe benefit costs for two new positions to establish the First Responder Health and Benefits Unit as outlined in the bill.

**Sections 11 - 14** change the administrating constitutional officer of the firefighters cancer relief account from the Treasurer to the Comptroller and does not result in a fiscal impact.

**Section 16** requires OSC and DESPP to make a registry of all career and volunteer firefighters in the state which does not result in a fiscal impact since the agencies have the necessary resources.

**Section 17** makes changes to the use of steady blue or red lights on certain vehicles which does not have a fiscal impact.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and as otherwise described above.