

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5460

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-WIDE FIRE PROTECTION.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 4975)

House Calendar No.: 251

Senate Calendar No.: 518

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
All Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
All Municipalities	Revenue Gain	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

Explanation

The bill creates and expands several fire protections programs, resulting in the following:

Section 1 requires each municipality to establish a local fire

¹ 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.

protection plan and submit such plans to the chief elected officer, legislative body, and emergency management director of the municipality by July 1, 2027. This 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.

Section 1 also results in a potential cost beginning in FY 28 to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to the extent that DESPP requires municipalities to submit local fire protection plans for its review. The bill is permissive and it is expected that DESPP would not require submission unless the agency had the resources and expertise to review such plans.

Section 2 expands the duties of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (CFPC) within DESPP by requiring that it recommend minimum firefighter safety standards and allowing it to establish standardized protocols related to the municipal fire protection plans established in Section 1. This is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact because CFPC has the necessary expertise to fulfil these duties.

Section 3 requires all municipalities to meet certain requirements related to fire protection. 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 the "Connecticut Fire" program within DESPP to establish a framework for the state to provide administrative and operational assistance to municipalities. It is expected that DESPP, in conjunction with the related working group established in Section 6 of the bill, has the requisite expertise to develop such a framework. Implementation of the framework will depend on the scope of the framework and future funding availability.

Section 5 requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to administer 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 administer 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 6 establishes a working group to develop the administrative, operational, fiscal and personnel framework for the Connecticut Fire program established in Section 4 and does not result in a fiscal impact because the members of the working group are anticipated to have the necessary expertise to develop such framework.

Section 7 establishes five fire service regions in the state and requires DESPP to appoint regional fire coordinators for those regions. This is not expected to result in a fiscal impact because the coordinators would serve in a voluntary capacity.

Section 8 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 potential system development costs in FY 27.

Other sections of the bill are technical, conforming, or otherwise do not result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" eliminates the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, and results in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to implementation decisions made by the agencies and as otherwise described.

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.