

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5476

## AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	382,560	205,470
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	Up to 375,000	Up to 125,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	54,370	54,370
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Significant	Significant

Note: GF=General Fund

#### **Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Municipal Police Departments	STATE MANDATE <sup>2</sup> - Potential Cost	See Below	None

#### **Explanation**

The bill makes various changes related to human trafficking prevention efforts, resulting in a cost to the General Fund of at least

<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.

\$811,930 in FY 27 and \$384,840 annually thereafter.

**Section 1** creates a human trafficking prevention coordinator position with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) which results in a cost of \$132,560 in FY 27 and an annual cost of \$130,470 beginning in FY 28 to OPM and a corresponding cost of \$54,370 in fringe benefits annually to the Office of the State Comptroller beginning in FY 27. The bill establishes various requirements that this position must meet.

The bill also results in a one-time cost to OPM of \$250,000 in FY 27 for a consultant and an annual cost of \$75,000 beginning in FY 28 associated with building and maintaining a database.

**Section 4** requires all Department of Children and Families (DCF) employees and its contracted providers to complete human trafficking educational training, resulting in a cost of up to \$125,000 in FY 27 and annually thereafter to either hire one new training staff position or contract with an external training provider. For current agency staff, initial training must be completed by the end of FY 27, and refresher trainings every three years thereafter. New staff must complete initial training no later than six months after employment.

**Section 6** requires DCF, by July 1, 2027, to assess location security of any child placed in out-of-home care<sup>3</sup> resulting in a one-time cost to DCF of \$250,000 in FY 27 to hire a security contractor to conduct the assessment. If additional lighting, security cameras, or other measures are determined necessary to increase the security of certain placement locations, the bill provides no instruction or funding for further action. There are potential significant costs to the agency if they were to be responsible for identified security improvements, as well as the potential to incur significant liabilities if they fail to address them.

This section additionally requires the security assessment to be performed in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, resulting

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<sup>3</sup> DCF has approximately 80 residential facilities that provide out-of-home placement opportunities and most are privately run. There are also approximately 2,000 families licensed as foster/kinship caregivers serving approximately 3,000 children.

in potential costs to various municipal police departments in FY 27 only, which will depend on the number of such locations within a given municipality, as well as whether police departments incur overtime or other staffing costs associated with conducting these assessments.

***The Out Years***

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