

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

sHB-5477

AN ACT CONCERNING THE WELL-BEING OF EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND PERSONS WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	12,392,826 to 22,392,826	2,192,826
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	719,239	719,239
UConn	GF - Cost	100,000	None
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Potential Cost	Potential	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in the fiscal impacts described below.

Section 1 requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to ensure, with certain limitations, there are no areas in its facilities that are not subject to video surveillance, which results in a cost to DOC of \$10.2 million to \$20.2 million dollars in FY 27. DOC will need to hire a consultant to assess each facility's current video technology capabilities

¹ The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active hazardous duty employee fringe benefit cost is 50.54% of payroll in FY 27.

and identify any shortfalls, resulting in a cost of \$200,000 in FY 27. The purchase and installation of additional cameras in its facilities is estimated to cost \$10 million to \$20 million in FY 27.²

Section 2 requires DOC to ensure that all incidents of sexual abuse or assault are investigated and completed within thirty days of the report, resulting in an annual cost of \$639,873 to DOC and \$308,230 to the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits beginning in FY 27. To meet the investigation timeframe required by the bill, DOC will need to hire five Correctional Captains and two Correctional Lieutenants to conduct these investigations.³ Additionally, equipment and training costs for these positions are not expected to exceed \$30,000 annually.

Section 4 increases the mandatory sentence for the felony of second-degree sexual assault, which results in a potential cost to DOC for incarceration. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300.⁴

Section 7 requires DOC to develop a program for custodial staff members to receive not less than ten hours of training on mental health issues each year, resulting in a cost of about \$1,552,953 to DOC and \$411,010 to State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits beginning in FY 27.

An estimated 4,000 DOC custodial staff members will be required to attend an additional six hours of training annually, resulting in approximately 24,000 additional hours of overtime. The average hourly rate for overtime is \$52.73,⁵ and the estimated fringe benefit rate for hazardous duty overtime is 21.6%.

To facilitate this training, DOC will need to hire a supervising

² There are 13 active correctional facilities. This estimate assumes that each facility will require the installation of about 150 to 300 additional cameras, at approximately \$5,000 per camera.

³ The annual starting salaries for these positions are \$91,775 and \$75,499, respectively.

⁴ Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these expenses would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

⁵ Overtime is paid out at time and a half.

clinician, a clinical social worker, and a professional counselor,⁶ resulting in an annual cost of \$272,328 to DOC and \$137,635 to the State Comptroller – Fringe Benefits beginning in FY 27. Equipment for this additional training is not expected to exceed \$15,000 annually.

Section 9 results in a one-time cost to UConn of \$150,000 in FY 27. It requires the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at UConn to conduct a staffing assessment of DOC employees. As the IMRP does not have expertise in this area, it is anticipated the Institute would need to hire a consultant.

Section 11 results in a potential cost to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to the extent an additional staff member is required to meet the reporting requirements beginning December 1, 2027. Any cost is dependent on the number and complexity of incidents reported under the bill.

The remaining sections of the bill do not result in a fiscal impact as the affected agencies have the capacity and expertise to meet the requirements of these sections.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of sexual abuse or sexual assault investigations, the number of second-degree sexual assault offenses, the number of custodial staff requiring training, and the number and complexity of incidents reported to OPM.

⁶ The annual starting salaries for these positions are \$99,806, \$86,261, and \$86,261, respectively.