

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-137

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Early Childhood, Off.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

Section 2 results in a revenue gain to municipalities and regional boards of education (BOEs) related to increasing Smart Start grants to \$6,500 per child (or \$97,500 per 15-student classroom). The overall Smart Start appropriation within the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) remains unchanged.

For reference, under PA 25-198 (the FY 26–FY 27 biennial budget), funding for the program will increase by \$3 million in FY 27, bringing the total appropriation to \$6.3 million. Although the bill does not change the total appropriation, historical spending trends suggest that municipalities and regional boards of education will receive higher grant awards due to the increased grant allowance limits.

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Section 3 of the bill results in both a cost and revenue gain to the state as a result of changing the definition of "day camp" to align more closely with the definition of "youth camp", which will require licensure through the Office of Early Childhood (OEC). Both the total cost to OEC and the resulting revenue gain will depend on the number of new day camps seeking licensure under the bill's revised definition.

For reference, camp fees are set at \$315 annually for non-profits and \$815 for for-profit camps.

The bill makes other clarifying, technical and conforming changes that do not have a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the OEC youth camp licensure fee schedule.