

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-475

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS.

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Loss	20,000	20,000
Judicial Dept.	CICF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept.	CICF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund; CICF=Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

### **Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

### **Explanation**

The bill makes various changes to court procedures and operations, resulting in the following fiscal impacts.

**Section 3** results in a potential revenue gain to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) by requiring the Office of the Chief Court Administrator to establish a procedure for selling or disposing of unclaimed detainee property, including clothing and jewelry. All sale proceeds must be credited to the CICF.

**Section 11** narrows the circumstances under which a probation

officer must seek a warrant and notify police about a serious firearm offender's probation violation, resulting in a potential savings to the Department of Correction beginning in FY 27, to the extent less individuals are incarcerated for violations of probation as a result of this bill.<sup>1</sup> On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300.<sup>2</sup>

**Section 17** establishes a process by which a person can ask the court to invalidate a municipal lien. To the extent this reduces the number of third parties willing to purchase municipal tax liens, this may restrict a municipality's option to sell tax liens to recoup outstanding debt beginning in FY 27.

**Section 20** results in a minimal potential cost to the CICF by broadening the definition of "emotional harm", thereby expanding the circumstances under which certain crime victims may be compensated. Under current law, compensation for emotional harm may not exceed \$5,000.

**Section 28** increases the revenue that a lake authority may retain from fines issued for violations of state boating laws, resulting in an annual revenue loss to the General Fund of about \$20,000 beginning in FY 27.<sup>3</sup> This may also result in a potential minimal savings to municipalities that are members to the extent fewer funds are needed from the municipalities to support the lake authority.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> There are currently about 1,300 individuals incarcerated for violations of probation or conditional discharge, though it is unknown how many of these violations concerned serious firearm offenders.

<sup>2</sup> Inmate marginal savings is based on decreased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.). This amount does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because savings for these expenses would only be realized if a unit or facility closed. If this bill results in a large enough reduction in inmate population to allow for closing one or more units, the estimated marginal savings would be about \$12,500 per person.

<sup>3</sup> Between FY 22 and FY 25, it is estimated that lake authorities have collected an average of \$20,000 in fines annually under chapter 268 of the general statutes.

<sup>4</sup> Municipalities provide appropriations to lake authorities. For example, the Candlewood Lake Authority is funded by equal appropriations from Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, and Sherman.

The bill also makes various conforming, procedural, and technical changes that do not result in a fiscal impact because the affected agencies have the capacity and expertise to meet the requirements of these provisions.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to any reduction in incarceration for violations of probation, compensation for victims who experienced emotional harm, and the number of fines imposed by lake authorities under chapter 268 of the general statutes.