

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-475

AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPERATIONS.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 5719)

House Calendar No.: 560

Senate Calendar No.: 416

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## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

| <b>Agency Affected</b>        | <b>Fund-Effect</b>               | <b>FY 27 \$</b> | <b>FY 28 \$</b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Resources of the General Fund | GF - Revenue<br>Loss             | 20,000          | 20,000          |
| Judicial Dept.                | CICF - Potential<br>Cost         | Minimal         | Minimal         |
| Judicial Dept.                | CICF - Potential<br>Revenue Gain | See Below       | See Below       |

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

### ***Municipal Impact:***

| <b>Municipalities</b>  | <b>Effect</b>        | <b>FY 27 \$</b> | <b>FY 28 \$</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Various Municipalities | Potential<br>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 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

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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>1</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>2</sup>

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.

Senate "A" eliminates the potential savings to the Department of Correction in the underlying bill by striking a section that narrows the circumstances under which a probation officer must seek a warrant and notify police about a serious firearm offender's probation violation. The amendment makes other clarifying and procedural changes that are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact because the affected agencies have the capacity and expertise to meet the amendment's requirements.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would

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<sup>1</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>2</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.

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.

*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.*