Senate

General Assembly

File No. 8

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 154

Senate, March 10, 2026

The Committee on Children reported through SEN. MAHER, C. of the 26th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN AGENCIES TO REPORT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Department of Social Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, human services and appropriations. Such report shall (1) describe each program administered by the department that serves children or families, where eligibility for participation in such program or the sliding fee for participation in such program is based on a comparison between annual family income and the federal poverty level, (2) estimate the total cost associated with the administration of each such program, (3) estimate the anticipated total cost associated with the administration of each such program if eligibility for participation was expanded to include children and families with an annual family income above the federal poverty level

and below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival for the state, as determined by the United Way of Connecticut, (4) estimate how many additional children or families would be eligible for participation in each such program if participation was expanded in the manner described in subdivision (3) of this section, and (5) discuss the feasibility of adopting the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in making eligibility determinations for each such program.

Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Department of Developmental Services shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, public health and appropriations. Such report shall (1) describe each program administered by the department that serves children or families, where eligibility for participation in such program or the sliding fee for participation in such program is based on a comparison between annual family income and the federal poverty level, (2) estimate the total cost associated with the administration of each such program, (3) estimate the anticipated total cost associated with the administration of each such program if eligibility for participation was expanded to include children and families with an annual family income above the federal poverty level and below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival for the state, as determined by the United Way of Connecticut, (4) estimate how many additional children or families would be eligible for participation in each such program if participation was expanded in the manner described in subdivision (3) of this section, and (5) discuss the feasibility of adopting the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in making eligibility determinations for each such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 2	*from passage*	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Section 1(2), (3) and (4) and Section 2(2), (3) and (4), "list" was changed to "estimate" for clarity.

KID *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do 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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 $
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	Up to $150,000
Department of Developmental Services	GF - Cost	Up to $150,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill will result in a cost to the Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Developmental Services (DDS) of up to $150,000 per agency in FY 27 to require a report related to agency programs serving children or families.

The bill requires the agencies to detail each program administered by the departments that (1) serves children or families, (2) uses a sliding fee scale or is no cost to clients, and (3) bases eligibility on a comparison between annual family income and the federal poverty level. The report must assess the costs of expanding program eligibility to meet the state's ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival, including estimates of the additional children or families served and the overall feasibility of adopting this threshold as a standard for assistance.

Given the data and analysis required in the report, the agencies will need temporary or contracted staff to complete the report by January 1, 2027. For reference, the starting salary for a Social Services Program Manger is $98,695 with associated fringe benefit costs of $41,274.

The Out Years

The bill has no fiscal impact in the out years because the report is due by January 1, 2027.

Sources: State of Connecticut Job Classes Website

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 154

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SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable
Yea 17 Nay 0 (02/24/2026)