

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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

HB-5468

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF EQUIVALENT INSTRUCTION.

### AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 4221

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House Calendar No.: 304

### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

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

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	165,000	None
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	50,000	None
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	None	23,400

Note: GF=General Fund

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

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE <sup>1</sup> - Potential Cost	None	Potential Minimal

### ***Explanation***

The amendment strikes the underlying bill and its associated impact.

The amendment, which establishes a regulatory framework for students educated in a setting other than public or nonpublic school,

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<sup>1</sup> State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

Primary Analyst: CF  
Contributing Analyst(s): NB  
Reviewer: JS

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(SM)

results in: (1) a one-time cost of \$165,000 in FY 27 and an annual potential cost of \$23,400 beginning in FY 28 to the Department of Children and Families (DCF); (2) a one-time cost of \$50,000 in FY 27 to the State Department of Education (SDE); and (3) potential costs to local and regional boards of education (BOEs) that are anticipated to be minimal beginning in FY 28. The fiscal impacts are described by section below.

**Section 1** results in potential minimal staffing costs to BOEs annually beginning in FY 28. It is anticipated that some BOEs may need to hire additional staff to implement the amendment's regulatory framework, which includes requirements for BOEs to: (1) receive specific forms; (2) in certain situations, make multiple attempts to contact families; and (3) initiate a check of DCF records (see below) and notify families whether a child's withdrawal is effective and if not, the reason why. The number of staff hired will vary based on the number of students subject to the framework.

Additionally, Section 1 requires certain checks of DCF records when parents submit a form to withdraw their children from public school for parent-managed learning, resulting in a cost to DCF of \$165,000 in FY 27 and a potential cost of \$23,400 in FY 28 (and annually thereafter).

DCF requires \$165,000 in FY 27 to expand the capabilities of the existing new hire background check portal accessible to BOEs to include a new parent-managed learning search category. The search will display child abuse and neglect registry data currently made available in the system as well as whether the person is currently under investigation by DCF, as the amendment requires.

DCF may also need an additional Careline processing technician (0.5 FTE) at an annualized salary of \$23,400, beginning in FY 28, to support any increase in case search volume associated with the amendment's requirements.

The framework established by the amendment requires: (1) parents who withdraw a student from public school to sign a withdrawal form

in person, beginning in FY 28; (2) certain parents<sup>2</sup> to sign an intent to educate form,<sup>3</sup> beginning in FY 29; (3) parents who withdrew their child to be instructed through parent-managed learning to annually sign a continuation of parent-managed learning form electronically, beginning in FY 29; (4) BOEs to attempt to contact parents who do not submit required continuation of parent-managed learning forms by September 1, beginning in FY 29, and if they are unable to contact the parents they must notify SDE; and (5) superintendents to initiate a records check within two business days of receiving a withdrawal form, beginning in FY 28.

**Sections 2 and 4** result in a one-time cost of \$50,000 to SDE in FY 27 to: (1) develop and distribute guidance regarding the amendment's provisions and various forms for the framework established in Section 1; and (2) update the statewide education data system to include data about students being instructed through parent-managed learning.

**Section 3** requires parents of children being instructed through parent-managed learning to maintain education records for three years, which has no fiscal impact to the state or BOEs.

**Section 5** makes a conforming and procedural change which has no fiscal impact.

*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.*

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<sup>2</sup> Parents subject to this requirement include: (1) parents of children who turn five by September 1 of the school year; (2) parents who signed, the previous year, the form deferring their five or six year old from starting school, or whose child is five or six years old; (3) parents of school-aged children who move into a school district; and (4) parents who withdraw their child from a nonpublic school.

<sup>3</sup> Parents must indicate whether their child will: (1) enroll in public school; (2) enroll in nonpublic school, with evidence of said enrollment; or (3) be instructed through parent-managed learning.