

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5468

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF EQUIVALENT INSTRUCTION.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 4428)

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 ¹ - Potential Cost	None	Potential Minimal

Explanation

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

¹ 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.

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 bill'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 bill 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 bill's requirements.

The framework established by the bill requires: (1) parents who withdraw a student from public school to sign a withdrawal form in person, beginning in FY 28; (2) an intent to educate form annually for all children, beginning in FY 29; (3) BOEs to attempt to contact parents who do not submit required intent to educate forms by November 1, beginning in FY 29, and if they are unable to contact the parents they

must notify SDE; and (4) superintendents to initiate a records check within two business days of receiving a withdrawal form, beginning in FY 28.

Sections 2 - 4 result in a one-time cost of \$50,000 to SDE in FY 27 to: (1) develop various forms for the framework established in Section 1 and for non-public schools pursuant to Section 3; and (2) update the statewide education data system to include data about students being instructed through parent-managed learning.

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

House "A" eliminates the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, and results in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of students subject to the framework.