

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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

sSB-476

AN ACT CONCERNING VISITATION POLICIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS HELD IN TRUST BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION TO PERSONS WHO WERE FORMERLY INCARCERATED.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	362,347 - 683,438	483,129 - 911,250
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	147,623 - 183,130	196,830 - 244,173

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to allow inmates to have at least three in-person visits per week, results in an annual cost of \$438,129 to \$911,250 to DOC and \$196,830 to \$244,173 to the State Comptroller (OSC) for fringe benefits, beginning in the second quarter of FY 27.

To meet the bill's visitation requirements, DOC will need to add posts at six of its correctional facilities. DOC will likely need to hire one to two correction officers (COs) per facility depending on the increased volume of visitation, resulting in a total of about nine COs. Initially, these positions will likely be covered by overtime shifts, resulting in an annual

¹ The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active hazardous duty employee fringe benefit cost is 50.54% of payroll in FY 27.

cost of \$911,250 to DOC and \$196,830 to OSC for fringe benefits.² As newly hired COs cover these shifts, these annual costs – not accounting for annual wage increases – may decrease to \$483,129 for DOC and increase to \$244,173 to OSC.³ The FY 27 cost is 75% of the annual cost due to the bill's implementation date.

The bill also requires DOC to disburse the remaining balance in a person's Inmate Trust Fund account upon release. This provision is not expected to result in a fiscal impact as DOC has the capacity to meet this requirement with existing resources.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of additional posts needed and the extent to which visitation increases as a result of the bill.

² The average annual salary of a CO is approximately \$67,500 and the estimated fringe benefits rate for overtime is 21.6%.

³ The starting annual salary of a CO is \$53,681 and the estimated fringe benefits rate for new employees is 50.54%.