

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-445

AN ACT CONCERNING A JOBS PROGRAM FOR YOUTH IMPACTED BY THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, REVIEW OF PROBATION VIOLATIONS AND STATE-WIDE EXPANSION OF TRUANCY CLINICS.

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## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Probate Court	PCAF - Cost	approximately 40 million	approximately 40 million

Note: PCAF=Probate Court Administration Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill, which requires the Probate Court Administration (PCA) to establish truancy clinics throughout the state, results in a cost of approximately \$40 million annually, dependent on program participation, to the Probate Court Administration Fund (PCAF).

The bill requires the PCA to accept referrals from school principals for students with truanies and solicit program participation from parent(s)/guardian(s). Program participation is voluntary, and principals are not required to make referrals. In the school year 2022-2023, there were about 100,000 students who were recorded as truant in the state.

The costs associated with the bill are largely for new staff salaries and corresponding fringe benefits. The PCA will need to hire many new staff members to serve this population. Positions would include Lead Family

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Reviewer: PR

4/10/24

Specialists, Family Specialists, and Chief Clerks.<sup>1</sup> There would also be a need for the probate judges, who are employed on a part-time basis, to become full-time employees due to a substantial increase in work.<sup>2</sup> The number of staff required, and the corresponding fringe benefits, would be predicated on the volume of truancy referrals to the PCA. There would be additional needs for equipment, other expenses, etc. depending on the number of staff necessary.

The bill also requires the Judicial Department to review and report on probation violations which is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact to the state as the department has the expertise required. The bill also requires the Judicial Department and the Department of Labor to develop and implement a work program for justice impacted youth which codifies current practice.

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

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to actual truancy referrals to the Probate Courts.

*Sources: EdSight*

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<sup>1</sup>Annual compensation for these positions is approximately: Lead Family Specialist \$75,000; Family Specialist \$65,000; Chief Clerk; \$63,000.

<sup>2</sup>The highest compensated Probate Court judge receives a salary of 75% of a Superior Court judge's salary (CGS 45a-96a). This bill would likely result in a need for the Probate Court judges to receive the same salary as a Superior Court judge. In FY 25, this salary is \$201,023.