

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5200

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY FOR
PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 25 \$ | FY 26 \$ |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| UConn Health Ctr. | GF - Cost | 282,700 | Minimal |
| Public Health, Dept. | GF - Cost | 200,000 | 200,000 |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires, beginning January 1, 2025, certain health care facilities to purchase accessible medical equipment and ensure at least one examination room's equipment is accessible to patients with disabilities. These requirements are anticipated to result in a one-time cost of \$282,700 in FY 25 to the University of Connecticut Health Center (UHC). To comply with the bill, UHC must purchase additional electric exam tables, bariatric exam tables, lifts, and wheelchair scales. The cost of the new equipment ranges from \$4,000 for a wheelchair scale to \$9,000 for an electric exam table. Maintenance and service costs on the new equipment are expected to be minimal.

Additionally, the bill is anticipated to result in a cost to the Department of Public Health (DPH) of approximately \$200,000 in both FY 25 and FY 26 only for two full-time consultants needed to investigate complaints and oversee the attainment of any corrective measures

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issued by the department.¹ It is anticipated that a surge of complaints will be addressed in the first two years that the bill is effective and that, afterwards, the number of annual complaints will be addressed within existing DPH resources.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation. There are no outyear costs to DPH.

¹ The bill requires, starting 1/1/25, that health care facilities and offices with two or more examination rooms have the requisite staff and equipment to support a patient with a disability in accessing medical diagnostic equipment (e.g., a lift), exclusively purchase medical equipment that complies with federal standards, and ensure that at least one of their examination rooms has the dimensions necessary to enable a patient using an assistive device (e.g., wheelchair) to enter, exit, and maneuver easily.