

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

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S.131 – An Act Relating to State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs

As Passed the Senate

S.131 does two things. First, it clarifies that State’s Attorneys’ employees that currently receive state retirement and health care benefits remain eligible for those benefits. Second, it allows those employees collective bargaining rights under the State Employees Labor Relations Act (SELRA).¹

The bill affects approximately 120 employees including deputy State’s Attorneys, victim advocates and administrative staff who work in those offices. The bill does not impact Sheriffs’ offices as the union did not seek to include the deputy sheriffs in the organizing or bargaining unit.

This legislation is likely to result in higher costs to the State in the form of increased wages and other compensation (such as overtime, training, shift differentials, changes in steps, etc.). However the fiscal impact depends on the outcome of negotiations between the state which would likely happen sometime in the late summer or early Fall. It will also depend on when an agreement would take effect and the period of time it covers.

According to the Department State’s Attorneys and Sheriffs, the FY 2018 pay act request was \$385,390, which includes COLA and steps. Again, while the actual fiscal impact will depend on what’s negotiated, should this legislation pass, the full year impact could be as much as **\$200,000** (in addition to the pay act) depending on the timing of the bargaining and when an agreement takes effect.

Note: It should be noted that Sec. 14 of the bill, says the department “may prepare and submit a funding request to the General Assembly during the budget adjustment process if the timing of the implementation of the agreement does not permit the Department to secure funding during the regular budgetary process.”

¹ Currently they bargain under the Municipal Employees’ Labor Relation Act (MLRA).