

SIMULATED OFA-STYLE FISCAL NOTE — NOT AN OFFICIAL OFA DOCUMENT

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL TREATMENT OF CANNABIS

Working draft · August 15, 2026 · Not introduced, no sponsor, no official status

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 28 \$	FY 29 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	See Below	See Below
Chief State's Attorney, Div. Crim. Just.	GF - None	None	None

Municipal Impact: None**Explanation**

The bill removes cannabis from the drug factory offense under CGS § 21a-277(c), eliminates the cannabis clause from the mandatory minimum sentencing structure of CGS § 21a-278(b)(1), bars sentence enhancements under CGS § 21a-278a for cannabis-only offenses, establishes graduated penalties for cultivation above authorized limits, and establishes a presumption against incarceration for certain cannabis offenses absent a proven aggravating circumstance. The provisions are prospective and take effect October 1, 2027.

Department of Correction — potential savings, indeterminate. By eliminating the five-year non-suspendable term under CGS § 21a-278(b)(1)(D) and barring the two- and three-year non-suspendable consecutive terms under CGS § 21a-278a for cannabis-only offenses, the bill may reduce future admissions and lengths of stay. The magnitude of any savings cannot be estimated. Connecticut does not publish sentencing or admissions data disaggregated by General Statutes subsection. Any savings would additionally be marginal rather than average, as reductions of this scale are unlikely to affect facility staffing or fixed operating costs.

Judicial Department — potential savings, indeterminate. Reclassification of certain conduct from felony to misdemeanor treatment, and from criminal to civil treatment for lower-tier cultivation violations, may reduce court and probation workload. Offsetting this, the aggravating-circumstance procedure in section 8 requires a second part of the information to be tried after conviction on the underlying offense where the state seeks incarceration. This is the procedure already used for persistent offender allegations under CGS § 53a-40 and is anticipated to be absorbed within existing resources. The net effect is indeterminate.

Judicial Department — potential revenue gain, indeterminate. Section 6 establishes civil penalties of \$250 to \$2,000 for cultivation above authorized limits. Any revenue would depend on the number of violations detected and assessed, which cannot be estimated. Section 6(f) permits community service in lieu of payment upon an attestation of indigency, which would reduce collections by an unknown amount.

Division of Criminal Justice — no fiscal impact. The bill does not alter the division's charging authority except as to conduct removed from the criminal law. The second-part-of-the-information procedure in section 8 is existing practice.

Department of Consumer Protection — no fiscal impact. The bill does not amend CGS § 21a-420c or chapter 420h and does not alter licensing or civil enforcement authority or associated revenue.

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection — no fiscal impact. Sections 2 and 6 restrict the admissibility of certain evidence in specified prosecutions but do not alter investigative authority or resource requirements.

Forfeiture revenue — potential revenue loss, indeterminate. Section 9 excludes cannabis-only cases from the forfeiture of moneys under CGS § 54-36h(a)(1). Connecticut does not publish forfeiture proceeds disaggregated by controlled substance, and any loss cannot be estimated.

Municipalities — no fiscal impact. Municipal cannabis enforcement authority under CGS § 21a-420c, including the civil penalties in subsection (f) and the closure remedy in subsection (e), is unchanged.

The Out Years

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

Sources and data limitations

Sources: CGS §§ 21a-240, 21a-243, 21a-255, 21a-267, 21a-277, 21a-278, 21a-278a, 21a-278b, 21a-278c, 21a-279a, 21a-420c, 53a-35a, 53a-36, 53a-40, 54-36h; Public Act 26-8; Public Act 26-100.

NO DOLLAR ESTIMATE IS OFFERED FOR ANY PROVISION

No Connecticut source reports arrests, charges, convictions or sentences by General Statutes subsection. The Uniform Crime Reporting categories “Drug/Narcotic Violations” and “Drug Equipment Violations” are National Incident-Based Reporting System classifications that the publisher states are not necessarily identical to the Connecticut Penal Code, and they cannot be attributed to any specific statute or to cannabis.

Prepared August 15, 2026 by the Connecticut Cannabis Reform Project and published as a working draft. This is a proposal, not a bill. It has not been introduced in the General Assembly, has no sponsor, and has no official status. This document is advocacy and policy analysis, not legal advice, and its author is not an attorney. Statutory citations were verified against the Connecticut General Assembly at cga.ct.gov and against the enacted text of the 2026 public acts on August 15, 2026.