

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1179

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 30, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires firearm owners who become New Jersey residents to obtain firearm purchaser identification card and register handguns acquired out-of-State.
- Type of Impact:** State and local revenue increases. Potential State and local expenditure increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety; Municipalities.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Revenue Increase		Indeterminate	
Local Revenue Increase		Indeterminate	
Potential State Expenditure Increase		Indeterminate	
Potential Local Expenditure Increase		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates this bill would result in an indeterminate increase in State and local revenue from firearms purchaser identification card (FPIC) application fees, and potentially State and local expenditure increases to meet the bill’s requirements. The OLS does not have an estimate of the number of residents relocating to New Jersey who may require an FPIC or be required to register their handgun.
- The bill requires the Superintendent of the Division of the State Police (DSP) in the Department of Law and Public Safety to prepare the form of registration statement and provide a suitable supply of statements to each organized full-time municipal police department and each State Police station. The OLS estimates that meeting the additional requirements of this bill may not be overly labor-intensive and the DSP may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budget. Additionally, the bill may increase the Division of State Police’s workload depending on the number of background checks requested.

- A person who fails to comply with the provisions of the bill is liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first offense and is guilty of a disorderly person's offense for a second or subsequent offense. Disorderly person offenses are adjudicated by municipal courts, in most circumstances.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires firearm owners who move to New Jersey to obtain an FPIC and register any handgun if applicable within 60 days of residing in this State.

Under current law, a person who purchases a firearm in this State is required to display an FPIC, which identifies the card holder as a person who meets the statutory qualifications to purchase a firearm in this State. A person who legally owned a firearm while residing in another state and then moves to New Jersey is not required to obtain an FPIC.

This bill requires a firearm owner who becomes a resident of this State to obtain an FPIC and, if applicable, register any handguns. In order to register the handgun, a person would be required to submit to the municipal law enforcement agency or the State Police a registration statement that provides the person's name and address and the make, model, and serial number of the handgun being registered.

A person who fails to comply with the registration provisions would be granted 30 days to comply, after which time the person is liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first offense and is guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a second or subsequent offense.

Under the bill, the Superintendent of State Police is required to prepare the form of registration statement and provide a suitable supply of statements to each organized full-time municipal police department and each State Police station within 60 days prior to the bill's enactment.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS estimates this bill would result in an indeterminate increase in State and local revenue from FPIC application fees, and potentially State and local expenditure increases to meet the bill's requirements. The OLS does not have an estimate of the number of residents relocating to New Jersey who may require an FPIC or be required to register a handgun. The 2020 U.S. Census indicated that there were 9.288 million New Jersey residents as compared with the 8.791 million New Jersey residents reported during the 2010 U.S. Census, an increase of 497,100 residents over the decade.

**Revenue:** The OLS estimates an indeterminate increase in State and local revenue from FPIC application fees, due to requirements for firearm owners relocating to New Jersey residents to obtain an FPIC for firearms acquired out-of-State. The FPIC is a one-time fee of \$5 per person.

**State Expenditures:** The bill requires the Superintendent of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety to prepare the form of registration statement and provide a suitable supply of statements to each organized full-time municipal police department and each State Police

station. Additionally, the bill may increase the Division of State Police's workload depending on the number of background checks requested. The OLS estimates that meeting the additional requirements of this bill may not be overly labor-intensive and the DSP may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

**Local Expenditures:** The OLS estimates that the bill will produce indeterminate annual expenditure increases to municipalities.

The bill's establishment of disorderly persons offenses will increase the workload of the municipal courts as additional defendants will be prosecuted and tried. A person who fails to comply with the registration provisions would be granted 30 days to comply, after which time the person is liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first offense and is guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a second or subsequent offense. A disorderly persons offense is punishable by up to six months' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both. Disorderly person offenses are adjudicated by municipal courts, in most circumstances.

*Section: Law and Public Safety*

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This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).