

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1727

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 26, 2022

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires Attorney General to perform outreach and provide services to victims of human trafficking under certain circumstances.
- Type of Impact:** Potential annual State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>Potential State Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this legislation should not result in an increase in State expenditures as the bill requires the Attorney General to utilize the existing resources of the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS) to perform outreach in the community, deliver services to victims of human trafficking, award grants through a pilot program, and evaluate the benefits of the pilot program. Absent information from the DLPS, however, the OLS cannot anticipate the resources the department would allocate or to what extent the DLPS may provide grants through a pilot program.

#### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Attorney General to utilize the existing resources of the DLPS to perform outreach in the community and deliver services to victims of human trafficking in conjunction with other governmental entities.

In addition, the bill authorizes the Attorney General to establish, within the limits of available funds, a pilot program to award grants to service providers to perform outreach and deliver services to victims of human trafficking in urban municipalities with the highest crime index in this State and in municipalities located near major maritime transportation hubs.

The bill provides that upon completion, any pilot program is to be evaluated to determine the effectiveness of the pilot program, with a recommendation as to whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### *EXECUTIVE BRANCH*

None received.

### *OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES*

The OLS concludes that this legislation should not result in an increase in State expenditures as the bill requires the Attorney General to utilize the existing resources of the DLPS to perform outreach in the community, deliver services to victims of human trafficking, award grants through a pilot program, and evaluate the benefits of the pilot program.

The OLS notes that the existing State of New Jersey Human Trafficking Task Force, affiliated with the Attorney General and the Division of Criminal Justice, may meet the requirements of the bill. The current goals of the Human Trafficking Task Force are to: 1) train and assist law enforcement in methods of identifying victims and signs of trafficking in order to disrupt and interdict this activity; 2) coordinate Statewide efforts in the identification and provision of services to victims of human trafficking; and 3) increase the successful interdiction and prosecution of trafficking of human persons.

The bill requires the DLPS to perform outreach in the community and deliver services to victims of human trafficking in conjunction with other governmental entities, such as the Victims of Crime Compensation Office, and other victims' rights organizations, examples of which include the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking, the Covenant House of New Jersey in Newark, Catholic Charities, Center for Family Services, Inc., Sanar Wellness Institute, and POLARIS.

Absent information from the DLPS, however, the OLS cannot anticipate the resources the department would allocate or to what extent the DLPS may provide grants through a pilot program.

***Human Trafficking Background*** - Human trafficking is the second-largest criminal industry in the world and is prevalent in all 50 states in the U.S. In 2020 alone, there were 146 reported cases to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in New Jersey. These numbers only reflect cases identified through the Hotline, and does not include cases identified by hospitals, law enforcement, social service agencies, and others who help survivors directly without reporting. According to the DLPS, from 2008 to December 2018, there were 102 human trafficking indictments and 52 convictions in New Jersey.

*Section:* Law and Public Safety  
*Analyst:* Kristin Brunner Santos  
Lead Fiscal Analyst  
*Approved:* Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

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.).