

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3212

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: MARCH 2, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes Women's Menstrual Health Program to identify and assist patients with symptoms related to endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome.

Type of Impact: State expenditure and revenue increases.

Agencies Affected: Department of Health.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Cost Increase	Indeterminate
State Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that Department of Health expenditures will increase by an indeterminate amount to establish a Women's Menstrual Health Program, which will identify certain patients, who have reported symptoms of menstrual disorders, as potentially having endometriosis or polycystic ovary syndrome. Since identification, referral, and treatment protocols for endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome vary by patient, the OLS is unable to determine the amount by which State costs will increase under the bill.
- State revenues will also increase due to a provision in the bill that authorizes the Department of Health to charge a fee to cover costs related to the Women's Menstrual Health Program, including patient identification, referral, and follow-up; the electronic exchange of data by physicians; and educational initiatives for the public and health professionals. The OLS assumes that the department will set the fee at an amount sufficient to cover higher State costs related to the program activities required pursuant to the bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

The bill establishes a Women's Menstrual Health Program, which is tasked with identifying patients, who have displayed symptoms related to menstrual disorders, for endometriosis or polycystic ovary syndrome. The Women's Menstrual Health program will be housed within the Department of Health. Pursuant to the bill, the Commissioner of Health is required to use information gathered from patients in the program to provide appropriate follow-up and referrals to those patients who have been diagnosed with endometriosis or polycystic ovary syndrome. The bill additionally requires the department to education physicians, hospital staff, nurses, and the public about the program.

The bill authorizes the department to charge patients who participate in the program a fee, in an amount sufficient to cover costs of the identification, follow-up, and consultation with patients, and educational outreach to health professionals and the public, as required under the bill. The fee will also be used to support other aspects of the program, including infrastructure upgrades and providing electronic access to physicians for the exchange of data.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that Department of Health costs will rise by an indeterminate amount in order to establish a Women's Menstrual Health Program, identify patients who report symptoms of menstrual disorders as potentially having endometriosis or polycystic ovary syndrome, and provide appropriate follow-up care, referrals, and consultation to patients, as necessary. The OLS is unable to determine the amount by which State costs will increase under the bill, since the identification, referral, and treatment protocols for both endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome vary, depending upon the extent to which a patient's reproductive and other biological systems have been affected.

For context, researchers estimated that annual medical expenditures for a woman living with endometriosis are \$12,118 higher than for a woman who does not have the condition. According to the Office on Women's Health in the United States Department of Health and Human Services, 11 percent of women ages 15 to 44 years live with endometriosis. The OLS, therefore, anticipates that approximately 184,100 New Jersey residents currently live with endometriosis. Because not every individual living with endometriosis is symptomatic, not all of these individuals would necessarily seek medical treatment, or be referred to the Women's Menstrual Health Program.

According to the United States Centers on Disease Control and Prevention, between five and 12 percent of U.S. women live with polycystic ovary syndrome, which translates to between 87,000 and 200,800 New Jersey women. As with endometriosis, treatment for polycystic ovary syndrome varies with the individual's age, the severity of the condition, and the individual's fertility goals. In 2021, researchers estimated the annual cost in the U.S. to diagnose and treat the immediate and long-term repercussions of polycystic ovary syndrome was \$8 billion annually; of this total cost, the researchers estimate that the initial diagnosis of the condition accounted for less than two percent, or \$160 million.

The OLS assumes that the department will set the fee required under the bill in an amount that will support the department's ongoing costs to identify individuals who may have endometriosis or polycystic ovary syndrome, provide any requisite patient follow-up care, referrals, and consultations, as necessary; support the electronic exchange of data by physicians; support routine infrastructure upgrades, as needed; and conduct the public and professional education and training as required pursuant to the bill.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: Anne Cappabianca
Senior 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.).