

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1290

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 16, 2022

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Raises pay for election workers to \$300 per day; permits counties to provide additional compensation to election workers; appropriates \$7,000,000 to Department of State.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure increase to the State General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Division of Elections, Department of State.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost Increase	Approximately \$7.74 million		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that increasing the State's reimbursement of the payment to election workers by \$100 per day will increase costs to the Division of Elections in the Department of State by approximately \$7.74 million per election depending on the number of hours the poll workers actually work on Election Day and the type of election (i.e. primary, general, or special election).

### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200 per day to \$300 per day. Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each time the primary election, the general election, or any special election is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the \$200 payment to election workers while the counties account for the remaining \$75. This bill increases the State's reimbursement from \$125 per day to \$225 per day while keeping the counties' sum at \$75.

The bill also changes the compensation received by an election worker who fails to attend a training program from \$50 to an hourly rate commensurate with the State minimum wage.

The bill also increases from \$5.77 to the State minimum wage the minimum hourly rate that district board members will receive for serving at a school election held at a time other than a general election. The bill also increases from \$14.29 to \$21.43 the maximum hourly rate that district board members may receive for serving at a school election held at a time other than a

general election. The bill also changes the hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at a school election held at a time other than a general election who fails to attend the required training program from \$3.85 per hour to the State minimum wage.

The bill also allows a county to provide, at its discretion, additional compensation to election workers in such county in an amount determined by and at the expense of the county. The bill also allows a county to compensate election workers for attending the training program required to serve as an election worker. The counties would determine the amount, if any, and the compensation would be an expense of the county.

The bill appropriates \$7 million to the Department of State to reimburse the counties for the costs of the bill.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS estimates that increasing the State's reimbursement of the payment to election workers by \$100 per day will increase costs to the Division of Elections in the Department of State by approximately \$7.74 million per election depending on the number of hours the poll workers actually work on Election Day and the type of election (i.e. primary, general, or special election). This increase will bring the costs for early voting and election day poll workers from approximately \$18.24 million to \$25.98 million per election.

There is no information available to indicate the number of election workers who work any election despite failing to attend the required training program; thus, a specific estimate of the cost of increasing the compensation from \$50 for any election to an hourly rate of the State minimum wage cannot be made at this time.

The OLS notes that there may be increased costs to counties. However, there is no information available to indicate the number of counties that may provide additional compensation to election workers for attending the required training or for working any election; thus, a specific estimate of the potential cost for the counties cannot be made at this time.

The OLS notes that there may be an increased cost to local boards of education that hold school elections at a time other than the general election because the bill increases the minimum and maximum hourly rate for election workers from \$5.77 and \$14.29, respectively, to the State minimum wage and \$21.43, respectively. The bill also increases the hourly rate for election workers at such school elections who fail to attend the required training from \$3.85 to the State minimum wage. The State minimum wage is currently \$13 per hour and will increase to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2023, and to \$15 per hour on January 1, 2024. There is no information available to indicate what each local board of education compensates election workers currently or what they may compensate election workers following the change in this bill; thus, a specific estimate of the cost cannot be made at this time.

*Section:* State Government

*Analyst:* Nicolas Soto  
Associate Research 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.).