

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 2268
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 20, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires Commissioner of Education to prepare learning loss report and report on public school operations during COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Type of Impact:** Potential expenditure increase for the State in FY 2023 and FY 2024.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>
Potential State Cost Increase	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in State expenditures to the Department of Education in FY 2023 and FY 2024 related to the development of the report on public school operations during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The department may incur additional cost increases to the extent that new staff would be hired to develop the report or to the extent that existing staff would allocate time towards its development.
- The OLS notes that the FY 2023 Appropriations Act already requires production of the learning loss report and includes a \$1 million appropriation therefor. As a result, the OLS expects no additional fiscal impact related to the bill’s requirement that the learning loss report be prepared as this requirement already exists in law.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Department of Education to prepare two reports on the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on public schooling. The first report, to be prepared and submitted to the Governor and the Legislature by May 31, 2023, will be a learning loss report that identifies and quantifies the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on student

academic outcomes. The second report, to be prepared and submitted by September 30, 2023, will be a report on the continuation of school services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The bill requires the department to review data concerning the topics of each of the reports.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in State expenditures to the Department of Education in FY 2023 and FY 2024 related to the development of the report on public school operations during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This report is to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature in FY 2024, but to the extent that the department begins preparations on the report before then, the State would incur costs in FY 2023. The OLS notes that the FY 2023 Appropriations Act already requires production of the learning loss report and includes a \$1 million appropriation therefor. As a result, the OLS expects no additional fiscal impact related to the bill's requirement that the learning loss report be prepared as this requirement already exists in law.

The department may incur additional cost increases to the extent that new staff would be hired to develop the report on public school operations or to the extent that existing staff would allocate time towards its development. The bill requires the department to review data related to the topics of the two reports required under the bill. Given that there is no explicit requirement for school districts to submit new data to the department for the reports, the OLS believes that this bill presents no new costs to school districts.

Section: *Education*

Analyst: *Christopher Myles*
 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.).