

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**SENATE, No. 2762**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: AUGUST 25, 2022

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Establishes Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent Evaluation of New Jersey at Thomas Edison State University; appropriates \$2 million.

**Type of Impact:** State Expenditure increase from the General Fund. Expenditure and revenue increases to Thomas Edison State University.

**Agencies Affected:** Thomas Edison State University.

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	\$2 million	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
<b>Thomas Edison State University</b>			
<b>Revenue Increase</b>	At least \$2 million	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
<b>Thomas Edison State University</b>			
<b>Expenditure Increase</b>	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that this bill would increase State costs by \$2 million in its first year of implementation. State costs thereafter to support the Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent Evaluation of New Jersey (CreateNJ) at Thomas Edison State University are indeterminate.
- The bill would concurrently result in a first-year revenue increase of \$2 million in State funds to Thomas Edison State University to establish CreateNJ. The university may realize additional fee revenue in indeterminate amounts from organizations, individuals, and other entities that utilize the services of CreateNJ.
- The OLS finds that Thomas Edison State University would likely incur costs of its own to operate the center.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill establishes the Center for Career Relevant Education and Talent Evaluation of New Jersey (CreateNJ) at Thomas Edison State University. The purpose of CreateNJ would be to maximize collaboration between institutions of higher education and partner organizations that develop and implement career pathways for nontraditional students and workers and workforce development programs. The center would be the State's central resource to evaluate and translate learning into a validated record of academic credit, career credentials, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship credits, and pertinent knowledge, skills, and abilities. The validated record developed by the center would be known as the New Jersey Workforce Transcript.

CreateNJ would also establish a database that houses all of the skills or credits credentialed or accepted by Thomas Edison State University or other participating institutions of higher education.

The bill permits CreateNJ to collect fees from organizations using approved credentials or professional learning assessments maintained by Thomas Edison State University, from individuals utilizing the New Jersey Workforce Transcript, or from other entities or individuals using the services provided by the center.

The bill appropriates \$2 million from the General Fund to Thomas Edison State University to carry out the purposes of the act.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS finds that this bill would increase State costs by \$2 million in its first year of implementation. The OLS notes that the \$2 million appropriated under the bill to support CreateNJ would be in addition to the \$10.528 million total State grants-in-aid appropriation provided to Thomas Edison State University in FY 2023. State support thereafter for CreateNJ at Thomas Edison State University is indeterminate and would be primarily dependent on the level of service utilization at the center as well as resource allocation decisions made by the State.

The bill would concurrently result in a first-year revenue increase of \$2 million in State funds to Thomas Edison State University to establish CreateNJ. The university may realize additional fee revenue in indeterminate amounts from organizations, individuals, and other entities that utilize the services of CreateNJ. The university may experience other revenue increases to the extent it applies for, and is awarded, grant funds made available by the federal government, private foundations or entities, or any other sources.

The OLS finds that Thomas Edison State University would likely incur indeterminate costs of its own to operate CreateNJ. Operating costs under the bill would include hiring staff for the center, entering into contracts as permitted by law to perform certain functions on behalf of the center, and establishing and maintaining a database of individuals' skills or credits in accordance with the bill's provisions.

*Section: Education*

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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.).