

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 4040 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2023

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Concerns jurisdiction and operations of regional municipal courts.
- Type of Impact:** Potential local expenditure and revenue increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Certain counties and municipalities.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Potential Local Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
Potential Local Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that the governing county of the regional municipal court may see an increase in revenues resulting from potential increases in the collection of fines and fees. Per the bill, the governing county of a regional municipal court may enter into a contract with a private firm for the collection of delinquent fees, fines, costs, surcharges, and other penalties on behalf of the regional municipal court. The OLS finds this additional option may result in revenue collections that were otherwise unattainable by the regional municipal court through other means.
- The OLS determines that this bill will likely not result in any additional expenditures for the Judiciary.

### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill clarifies the jurisdiction of regional municipal courts established under the pilot program set forth in P.L.2021, c.191. Under the pilot program, a county in cooperation with five or more municipalities can create a regional municipal court operated by the county to consolidate the individual courts of participating municipalities.

Currently, in addition to having jurisdiction over cases originating from the participating municipalities, the pilot program also requires regional municipal courts to handle cases filed by the State Police, any Statewide law enforcement agency, any county law enforcement agency, any county code enforcement entity, or any other non-municipal law enforcement agency, on a countywide basis, even if those matters did not originate from a participating municipality. The bill clarifies that regional municipal courts will no longer be required to hear State Police or county police cases originating from outside of the participating municipalities. However, counties may still, by ordinance, confer upon the regional municipal court certain countywide jurisdiction if the county chooses to do so. The regional municipal court will retain jurisdiction over currently pending countywide cases, but new cases originating from non-participating municipalities brought after the effective date of the bill will be filed in their municipality of origin.

The bill also clarifies that the county governing body of a regional municipal court may enter into a contract with a private firm for the collection of delinquent fees, fines, costs, surcharges, and other penalties on behalf of the regional municipal court, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS finds that the governing county of the regional municipal court may see an increase in revenues resulting from potential increases in the collection of fines and fees. Per the bill, the governing county of a regional municipal court may enter into a contract with a private firm for the collection of delinquent fees, fines, costs, surcharges, and other penalties on behalf of the regional municipal court. The OLS finds this additional option may result in revenue collections that were otherwise unattainable by the regional municipal court through other means.

The OLS determines that this bill will likely not result in any additional expenditures for the Judiciary.

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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.).