

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3256

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 4, 2026

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires restaurant to disclose mandatory gratuity to patrons.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure and revenue increases.
- Agencies Affected:** The Judiciary; Department of Law and Public Safety.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Annual
State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
State Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that the Judiciary will incur an indeterminate increase in annual operating expenditures, as additional resources will likely have to be allocated to any increase in civil caseload from the provisions of this bill. The OLS also anticipates collections from court filing fees to grow in tandem with the caseload.
- The Department of Law and Public Safety may incur additional workload from the enforcement of civil penalties established by this bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires a restaurant to disclose a mandatory gratuity charge to a patron on the menu, at the entrance of the restaurant, on the patron’s bill, and if the restaurant operates a website, on the restaurant’s website. The disclosure is required to be in a prominent manner. Violators of the bill’s provisions are subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for first offense, \$2,500 for a second offense, and \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offense. For violations of a continuing nature, each day during which a violation occurs constitutes an additional, separate, and distinct offense. A penalty imposed pursuant to the bill’s provisions is to be collected in a civil action under the Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999.



FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS notes that the Judiciary will incur an indeterminate increase in annual operating expenditures, as additional resources will likely have to be allocated to a potentially increased civil caseload from the new civil penalties established under this bill. The OLS also anticipates collections from court filing fees to grow in tandem with the caseload.

Section: Judiciary

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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.).