LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 316

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 5, 2020

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in DOE, and the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force.

Type of Impact: Potential State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Potential State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs to the Department of Education (DOE). The potential increase in State costs would be dependent on decisions made by the Commissioner of Education with respect to the number of people who would staff the newly created Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth and the corresponding salary ranges.

- The bill may also cause an additional, minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in the DOE. The bill requires the office to collaborate with school districts in the development of a Statewide strategic plan to address the problem of student dropouts, recommend and develop programs to prevent students from dropping out of school, and address issues associated with the reenrollment of students who have left school prior to graduation.

The bill also establishes the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to analyze the causes of students leaving school prior to graduation, recommend to school districts best practices for reducing the student dropout rate, and develop strategies to increase the reenrollment of students who have left school.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in State costs to the DOE. The potential increase in State costs would be dependent on decisions made by the Commissioner of Education with respect to the number of people who would staff the newly created Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth and the corresponding salary ranges. It is also possible that the commissioner would staff the office by reallocating current personnel, thereby avoiding a potential increase in expenditures. While the OLS does not have the informational basis by which to forecast the salary range of employees in a new Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth, the average annual salary for a full-time employee in the DOE, according to the Civil Service Commission's "State Government 2018 Workforce Profile," is approximately $84,000.

The bill may also cause an additional minimal State expenditure increase to reimburse members of the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section:	*Education*
Analyst:	*Christopher Myles* *Associate Fiscal Analyst*
Approved:	*Frank W. Haines III* *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.).