

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3851

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: JANUARY 12, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Creates Office of School Bus Safety in Department of Education; appropriates \$200,000.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Annually Thereafter</u>
State Cost Increase	Up to \$200,000	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that this bill will lead to an expenditure increase of up to \$200,000 in FY 2022. Annual costs to operate the Office of School Bus Safety in the years thereafter are indeterminate, although the OLS expects that the State will experience similar costs as those experienced in FY 2022.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill creates the Office of School Bus Safety in the Department of Education. The purpose of the office is to oversee the school busing industry and to coordinate enforcement and accountability among the department, school bus drivers, and school bus contractors. The Commissioner of Education would establish the office, which would consist of individuals qualified by training and experience related to the school bus industry. The bill prescribes a variety of responsibilities for the office relating to the review and collection of information about the school busing industry.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill will cause an indeterminate increase in annual State expenditures to the DOE to provide for the operation of the Office of School Bus Safety. The bill provides for a \$200,000 supplemental appropriation for FY 2022. State expenditure increases would stem from costs to operate the office, including costs associated with the salary and benefits of employees of the Office of School Bus Safety, facilities and office space, and materials and supplies. The OLS notes that costs may be reduced to the extent that existing staff within the DOE are currently qualified to perform some of the functions prescribed in the bill.

Section: *Education*
Analyst: *Christopher Myles*
 Associate 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.).