

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 2790
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 30, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes certification card for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure and revenue increases.

Agencies Affected: Department of Human Services.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

| Fiscal Impact | <u>Annual</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| State Cost Increase | Indeterminate |
| State Revenue Increase | Indeterminate |

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the Department of Human Services will incur an indeterminate amount of annual costs to establish a documentation process for, and to issue, the certification cards described under the bill.
- Annual State revenues may also increase as the bill permits the department to collect a reasonable fee for the issuance of the certification card. The fee is not permitted to be greater than the cost to issue the certification card.
- The fiscal impacts of this legislation cannot be quantified as the number of individuals who may request certification cards is unpredictable, and the fee established to receive the card is to be determined by the department following enactment. The OLS notes that the bill restricts the fee to be no more than the cost to issue the card, so it is possible that there will be no net fiscal impact to the department under the bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to issue certification cards, upon the request of a person who has been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or upon the request of the guardian or caregiver of the person, denoting that the cardholder has been medically diagnosed

with an autism spectrum disorder. The bill also requires the division to establish the documentation required to be produced by a person in order to receive the certification card and permits the department to collect a reasonable fee for the certification card, which cannot be greater than the cost to issue the certification card.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that the Department of Human Services will incur an indeterminate amount of annual costs to establish a documentation process for, and to issue, certification cards, as described under the bill. These costs will likely be due to staffing, technology, and material outlays. The OLS notes that the Department of Health currently administers the New Jersey Autism Registry, which requires registrants or the registrant's health care provider to complete an autism registration form. To the extent that the Department of Human Services can collaborate with the Department of Health to comply with this bill, State costs could be minimized. Additionally, the costs of the bill may be offset in part or entirely by revenue generated from fees collected by the division from individuals requesting certification cards, as permitted under the bill.

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Section: Human Services
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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.).