

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 1905
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: AUGUST 25, 2022

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires public institutions of higher education to waive or reimburse application fees and transcript fees for veterans and members of military.

Type of Impact: Annual State revenue decrease.

Agencies Affected: Public Institutions of Higher Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Revenue Decrease for Public Institutions of Higher Education		Up to \$100,000	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill may result in an annual State revenue decrease of up to \$100,000 for public institutions of higher education as a result of waiving or reimbursing application and transcript fees for veterans and members of the military.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would require public institutions of higher education to waive or reimburse application and transcript fees for any veteran, member of the Armed Forces of the United States, member of the Reserve components of the Armed Forces, or member of the New Jersey National Guard who resides in the State and accepts admission to the institution.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill could result in an annual State revenue decrease of up to \$100,000 for public institutions of higher education as a result of waiving or reimbursing application and transcript fees for veterans and members of the military. Using information from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics, the OLS was able to compile an estimate of waiving application and transcript fees for public institutions of higher education. For the purposes of this estimate, the number of students receiving financial aid under the federal Post-9/11 GI Bill or United States Department of Defense tuition assistance is used to approximate the number of veterans and members of the military at each institution.

Under the bill, public institutions of higher education would be required to waive or reimburse application fees for veterans and members of the military if the applicant resides in the State and accepts admission to the institution. Application fees range between \$10 and \$75, and average \$49 among the 21 public institutions of higher education that require application fees. Using information available through IPEDS and institution websites, the OLS estimated the number of applicants affiliated with the military who enrolled at each institution in a single year. This number multiplied by the application fee for the institution provides an estimate of waiving or reimbursing application fees for enrolled veterans and members of the military for each public institution of higher education. The estimated amount of these waived or reimbursed application fees for all public institutions of higher education would be \$64,000.

Public institutions of higher education would also be required to waive or reimburse transcript fees for veterans and members of the military. Transcript fees range from \$4 to \$15, and average \$8 among the 30 public institutions of higher education that require transcript fees. Using information available through IPEDS and institution websites, the OLS estimated the number of transcripts requested by veterans and members of the military in a single year, which multiplied by the transcript fee for the institution, provides an estimate of waiving or reimbursing transcript fees for veterans and members of the military for each public institution of higher education. The estimated amount of these waived or reimbursed transcript fees for all public institutions of higher education would be \$12,000.

Combining the waived or reimbursed application fees and transcript fees for veterans and members of the military provides a total estimate of \$76,000. However, the actual revenue loss may be slightly higher when considering graduate students, veterans and members of the military not receiving financial aid under the federal Post-9/11 GI Bill or United States Department of Defense tuition assistance, and students who may need to request a transcript on multiple occasions. Given these potential considerations, the OLS estimates that the implementation of the bill may result in a total annual revenue decrease for public institutions of higher education of up to \$100,000.

Section: Education
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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.).