

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**SENATE, No. 248**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: MARCH 1, 2022

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Establishes pilot program in DOE to support establishment of criminal justice career academies in public high schools.

**Type of Impact:** Five-year State expenditure increase; five-year local revenue and expenditure increase.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Education; Local school districts.

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Annual Fiscal Impact</b>	
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Between \$500,000 and \$1 million
<b>Local Revenue Increase</b>	Between \$500,000 and \$1 million
<b>Local Expenditure Increase</b>	Between \$500,000 and \$1 million

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill will increase State expenditures by between \$500,000 and \$1 million annually over the five-year duration of the pilot program, subject to availability of appropriations. The State expenditure increase stems from the provision of grants to participating school districts for the development and establishment of criminal justice career academies.
- Participating local school districts will experience a concurrent revenue increase in the form of these State grants and a corresponding expenditure increase to establish their criminal justice career academy programs.
- The OLS believes that annual State costs of between \$500,000 and \$1 million is a reasonable range given the amount of funds that have been dedicated by the Department of Education (DOE) to similar grant programs. The bill does not include an appropriation for the program so the amounts the State awards to school districts and the subsequent spending by these districts on the program could vary year to year.

**BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the Department of Education to establish a five-year pilot program to provide support to school districts to develop and establish criminal justice career academy programs in

high schools. The department will also award grants to participating school districts to be used to support the development and implementation of the career academies. The DOE will select at least one school district in each county that has at least one municipality with a resident population of over 75,000 individuals according to the most recent census. In making the selections, the department will consult with the Attorney General and the Superintendent of State Police to prioritize school districts that demonstrate a need to diversify the law enforcement agencies of the county or municipality in which the school district is situated. The DOH will provide guidance, support, and training to participating school districts to establish the criminal justice career academies.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS determines that this bill will increase State expenditures by between \$500,000 and \$1 million annually over the five-year duration of the pilot program, subject to the availability of appropriations. The State expenditure increase would stem from the provision of grants to participating school districts for the development and establishment of criminal justice career academies. Participating local school districts will experience a concurrent revenue increase in the form of these State grants and a corresponding expenditure increase to establish their criminal justice career academy programs.

The OLS bases these ranges on a review of similar competitive grant programs offered by the DOE, which seek to expand or establish career-oriented academic programming. A DOE grant program that is similar in nature to the pilot program established under the bill is the Building Capacity for Career Pathways program, which has made \$675,000 in grants available in FY 2022 for grants to school districts. While the Building Capacity for Career Pathways program focuses on strengthening career and technical and education programs in certain key industries that do not include criminal justice, the program's broad goal of developing career pathways is similar to the goal of the pilot program established under the bill. The structures of the two programs are also comparable as the application process and the number of available awards under both programs are similar. However, the bill does not include an appropriation for the program so the amounts the State awards to school districts and the subsequent spending by these districts on the program could vary year to year.

The OLS concludes that, under the bill, school districts in seven counties would be eligible for selection in the pilot program due to the presence of at least one municipality with a population of over 75,000 individuals according to the most recent census. Specifically, the OLS finds that school districts in Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean, Passaic, and Union counties would be eligible for selection under 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.).