

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, Nos. 2498 and 2505
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 18, 2024

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires Commissioner of Education to establish and maintain educator common application and web portal.

Type of Impact: Potential annual State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2 and Thereafter</u>
Potential State Expenditure Increase	\$100,000 to \$500,000	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill may result in increased annual costs to the Department of Education for the establishment and maintenance of a common application and web portal through which an individual may seek employment in a public school. Costs incurred by the department may be limited to the extent that it uses existing resources to reconstruct an existing website or portal, as permitted by the bill.
- If the department builds a new common application and web portal without using existing resources, or contracts with a third party vendor to do so, the OLS estimates initial startup costs in the range of \$100,000 to \$500,000.
- Maintenance costs following the initial year of implementation are indeterminate.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish and maintain an educator common application and web portal. The web portal is to allow candidates who have been issued a certificate necessary to seek employment in a public school, including a substitute teacher credential, to submit a single common application to apply for employment at the public schools of the State. The bill authorizes the department to contract with a private vendor to establish and

maintain the portal. The department may also reconstruct an existing website that it operates to meet the requirements of the bill.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill may result in increased annual costs to the Department of Education for the establishment and maintenance of a common application and web portal through which an individual may seek employment in a public school. Costs as a result of the bill may be minimized to the extent the department uses existing resources and staff to reconstruct an existing website or portal, as permitted by the bill.

If the department builds a new common application and web portal without using existing resources, or contracts with a third party vendor to do so, the OLS estimates initial startup costs in the range of \$100,000 to \$500,000. However, costs may be higher or lower than this range depending on the complexity of the features integrated into the common application and web portal. With respect to costs on the higher end of the range, the OLS researched the costs of various information technology projects implemented in the State and outside of the State. The initial start-up expenditures for the Teen Summer Working Hours Database, which enables minors to register for work permits, totaled slightly over \$513,000 in FY 2023. The OLS found that the Louisiana Office of Technology Services spent approximately \$700,000 to construct a comprehensive website that provides information to the public about data and reports of state expenditures, contracts, incentive expenditures, revenues, and other financial matters. The OLS assumes that the web portal contemplated in the bill would not need this level of functionality. On the other end of the spectrum, the Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration estimated, in a recent fiscal note, the initial costs to create a state grant database at \$135,000. While it is not known how specifically these projects may compare to the common application and web portal to be established under the bill, the OLS provides information on these various costs for informational purposes.

The costs to maintain the common application and web portal following the initial year of implementation are indeterminate. The magnitude of the maintenance costs again could vary depending on factors such as the extent to which current resources and staff are deployed to maintain an existing, reconstructed website or portal or, conversely, whether a new common application or portal is maintained by departmental staff or by a contracted third party vendor.

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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.).