

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 349
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 8, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires public colleges to adopt policy for prevention and treatment of exertional heat illness; requires pamphlet on heat stroke be provided to student-athletes, parents, and coaches and public colleges and K-12 schools.
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education, Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, local school districts, public institutions of higher education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual Cost</u>
State Cost Increase:	
Department of Education	\$35,340
Public Institutions of Higher Education	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates the bill would result in an annual State expenditure increase, including \$35,340 for the Department of Education (DOE) and an indeterminate increase for all public institutions of higher education. The predominant expense resulting from this bill would be the printing and distribution of the required pamphlets.
- This bill requires the DOE and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) to develop pamphlets providing information on exertional heat stroke. The DOE would distribute the pamphlets to school districts at no charge. The Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) would make the pamphlet accessible digitally, and public institutions of higher education would be required to distribute the pamphlet to certain individuals.
- In the event of the death of a student-athlete related to performance in school athletics, the Commissioner of Education or the relevant public institution of higher education would be required under the bill to commission an independent third party to conduct an investigation.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would require the DOE and the OSHE to develop an informational pamphlet that details ways to avoid, identify, and treat exertional heat stroke, as well as forms acknowledging receipt of the pamphlets, to be signed by student-athletes or parents and guardians, and athletic staff. The DOE would be required to distribute the pamphlet to school districts and nonpublic schools free of charge, and schools would distribute the pamphlet to students-athletes, parents and guardians, and athletic staff. The OSHE would be required to post the pamphlet on its website, and public institutions of higher education would distribute the pamphlet to parents and guardians of student-athletes and all athletic staff.

In the event of the death of a student-athlete related to participation in a school athletic event, the commissioner or the public institution of higher education at which the student was enrolled would be required to commission an independent third party to conduct an investigation into the incident, and the results of the investigation would be made public to the extent allowed by State law.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

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The primary cost associated with this bill would be to print and distribute pamphlets providing information about exertional heat stroke to student-athletes and the parents or guardians of student-athletes, as well as a form to be signed by student-athletes, parents or guardians, coaches, assistant coaches, and athletic trainers acknowledging receipt of the pamphlet. Based on the current market value, the cost of printing 5,000 pamphlets would be approximately \$620. The OLS notes that the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association estimates that there are approximately 283,000 student athletes in a given year. Based on this information, the cost of providing pamphlets for the student athletes would be an estimated \$35,340 annually. The OLS is not aware of estimates of the number of student-athletes and athletic staff at the public institutions of higher education. However, in the way of context, using the enrollment statistics from the Governor's FY 2023 Budget, the cost of providing pamphlets for every student would be \$28,000 for all public institutions of higher education. Because the bill only requires pamphlets be provided to student-athletes and athletic staff, the actual cost would likely be less than this amount.

The bill would also require the DOE or the relevant public institution of higher education to contract with an independent third party to conduct an investigation in the event of a student death related to performance in school athletics activities. The OLS cannot estimate the cost of such an investigation, nor can the OLS estimate the frequency with which such an investigation may occur.

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.).