

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 724
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 30, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Directs Commissioner of Education to establish three-year pilot program to increase reading levels of certain students; appropriates \$1 million.
- Type of Impact:** Three-year State expenditure increase; three-year local expenditure and revenue increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education, school districts.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Annual Fiscal Impact	<u>Three-Year Duration of the Pilot Program</u>
State Cost Increase	\$1 million
Local Expenditure Increase	Up to \$1 million
Local Revenue Increase	Up to \$1 million

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill would result in a \$1 million increase in annual State expenditures over the three-year duration of the pilot program to provide funding for school districts participating in the program. The increase in State expenditures, excluding administrative costs, would correspond to a revenue gain for local school districts selected for participation in the pilot program.
- School districts will incur annual costs of up to \$1 million for the three-year duration of the pilot program to evaluate student reading levels for participation in the program and to provide the related summer school instruction.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill directs the Department of Education to establish a three-year pilot program to provide students who are not reading at grade level by the end of second grade with summer school instruction to bring the students' reading proficiency up to grade level. The commissioner will identify appropriate reading level assessment tools in consultation with recognized experts in reading literacy.

This bill provides that six school districts will participate in the pilot program, to be chosen by the department from districts in the northern, central, and southern regions of the State, and representing a cross-section of urban, suburban, and rural areas.

The bill appropriates \$1 million from the General Fund to establish and implement the pilot program.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

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School districts will incur annual costs of up to \$1 million for the three-year duration of the pilot program to evaluate student reading levels for participation in the program and to provide the related summer school instruction.

Section: Education

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*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.).