

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 1, 2023

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Creates online job portal for behavioral health care workers and online internship and externship portal for health care students.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase; General Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2 and Thereafter</u>
State Cost Increase	Minimum \$20,000 to \$100,000	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the Department of Health will incur initial startup costs of at least \$20,000 to \$100,000 to create an online job portal for behavioral health care workers and an online internship and externship portal for behavioral health care students. Some annual operating costs related to staff time to maintain the job portals will also be incurred.
- Upfront and annual costs could be higher if the department contracts with a third party vendor to create the portals, as is permitted under the bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Department of Health to create, maintain, and update: 1) an online job portal that permits in-State employers to post job openings for behavioral health care workers; and 2) an online internship and externship portal that permits in-State employers to post internship and externship openings that are eligible to provide academic credits for students who are studying to become health care professionals, to provide credits toward licensure or certification, or to provide credits toward completion of a health care professional training program. If necessary, the department may contract with a third-party entity to develop and administer the online behavioral health job portal, the online internship and externship portal, or both online portals.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that the Department of Health will incur initial startup costs of at least \$20,000 to \$100,000 to create an online job portal for behavioral health care workers and an online internship and externship portal for behavioral health care students. The cost of creating an online job portal can vary significantly based on several factors, such as the complexity of the features, development approach, and whether the job portals are created in-house or contracted out to a third party. Some annual operating costs related to staff time to maintain the portals will also be incurred. It is possible that costs under the bill could be reduced if the department develops the portals in house or collaborates with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, which currently administers an online job posting and search platform for employers and prospective employees. Ongoing costs thereafter will be incurred to update the portals as needed. To the extent that the Department of Health can use existing resources to accomplish these tasks, costs to the State would be lower than otherwise. If the department contracts with a third party vendor, as permitted under the bill, upfront and annual costs could be higher.

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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.).