

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 857
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 9, 2022

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires minimum level of police staffing based on municipal population and violent crime rate.

Type of Impact: Annual municipal expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Municipalities.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
Municipal Expenditure Increase	At least \$376.8 million		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill will result in an annual expenditure increase of at least \$376.8 million for 17 municipalities that will have to hire additional police officers in order to comply with the provisions of the bill.
- Actual costs in each year are likely to be higher because this estimate does not include any equipment or training expenses, nor does it include future costs associated with overtime pay or negotiated adjustments to salaries or benefits.
- This estimate is based on data as of a certain point in time. Costs to municipalities will vary with changes in population, crime rate, and police force staffing.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires municipalities in New Jersey with a population of more than 60,000 people and a violent crime rate exceeding 10 per 1,000 residents, as reported in the Uniform Crime Report published by the Department of Law and Public Safety, to maintain a full-time police department comprised of at least four police officers per 1,000 residents. The Uniform Crime Report identifies murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault as violent crimes.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

According to information from the Department of Law and Public Safety, which was based on data compiled out of the 2020 Uniform Crime Report, there were 18 New Jersey municipalities with a population over 60,000 and a crime index greater than 10 per 1,000 residents:

- Camden City
- Cherry Hill
- Gloucester Township
- East Orange
- Newark
- Bayonne
- Jersey City
- Union City
- Hamilton Twp. (Mercer Co.)
- Trenton City
- Edison
- Woodbridge
- Toms River
- Clifton City
- Passaic City
- Paterson
- Franklin Twp. (Somerset County)
- Elizabeth City

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that the bill will result in an annual expenditure increase of at least \$376.8 million for 17 municipalities that will have to hire additional police officers in order to comply with the provisions of the bill. Actual costs in each year are likely to be higher because this estimate does not include any equipment or training expenses, nor does it include future costs associated with overtime pay or negotiated adjustments to salaries or benefits.

Based on the criteria set forth in the bill, population statistics from the 2020 U.S. Census, and violent crime rates from the 2020 Uniform Crime Report, the OLS concludes that there are 18 municipalities in the State that meet the thresholds established in the bill, 17 of which will have to increase the number of police officers on their forces by a combined total of 3,110 additional officers, as shown in the table below. According to the July 1, 2021 New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System actuarial valuation report, the average starting salary for a local police officer is \$60,127. Factoring in the fringe benefit rate of 101.5 percent, total employer personnel costs for a new officer would be \$121,156 on average. The affected municipalities will also incur upfront training costs for new officers and additional equipment costs, including vehicular equipment and body cameras, which are not reflected in this cost estimate.

Municipality*	Current Number of Law Enforcement Officers	2020 Population**	Required Number of Law Enforcement Officers per 1,000 Residents as Required by the Bill	Number of Law Enforcement Officers that Need to be Hired under the Bill	Total Employer Personnel Cost under the Bill
Bayonne	179	71,686	287	(108)	\$13,053,832
Camden City	334	71,791	287	N/A	N/A
Cherry Hill	128	74,553	298	(170)	\$20,622,205
Clifton City	145	90,296	361	(216)	\$26,191,989
East Orange	193	69,612	278	(85)	\$10,352,538
Edison	176	107,588	430	(254)	\$30,816,271
Elizabeth City	327	137,298	549	(222)	\$26,919,894
Franklin Twp. (Somerset Co.)	98	68,364	273	(175)	\$21,257,547
Gloucester Twp.	133	66,034	264	(131)	\$15,887,913
Hamilton Twp. (Mercer Co.)	165	92,297	369	(204)	\$24,738,601
Jersey City	922	292,449	1,170	(248)	\$30,021,972
Newark	966	311,549	1,246	(280)	\$33,947,427
Passaic City	152	70,537	282	(130)	\$15,768,211
Paterson	404	159,732	639	(235)	\$28,462,937
Toms River	163	95,438	382	(219)	\$26,503,117
Trenton City	248	90,871	363	(115)	\$13,991,580
Union City	167	68,589	274	(107)	\$13,006,824
Woodbridge	206	103,639	415	(209)	\$25,267,811
Total				(3,110)	\$376,810,668

*The Department of Law and Public Safety provided a list of municipalities with a population over 60,000 with a violent crime index greater than 10 per 1,000 residents. The compiled list used 2020 Uniform Crime Report data.

**2020 U.S. Census.

Section: Law and Public Safety

*Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Lead Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).