

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 418

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 19, 2023

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes standards for food date labeling; requires Commissioner of Health to establish public education program and promulgate guidelines related to food safety.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increases.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Cost Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that Department of Health expenditures will increase by a marginal indeterminate amount annually in order for the department to develop and disseminate information educating the public regarding the food date labeling changes established under the bill.
- The department may also incur indeterminate annual administrative costs if it decides to designate additional foods as requiring time/temperature control for food safety or to exempt certain foods from this requirement, as permitted under the bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes standards for food date labeling and requires the Department of Health to establish a public education program and guidelines related to food safety. The public information campaign is to disseminate information about the meaning of date labels and to educate consumers on food safety and proper food handling procedures. The bill allows the Department of Health to designate additional foods as time/temperature control for safety foods, or exempt foods from the designation. The department would be required to post this information on its website. The bill becomes inoperative if a federal food labeling standard that preempts it is adopted and becomes effective.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that expenditures incurred by the Department of Health will increase by a marginal, albeit indeterminate, amount annually for the department to educate the public regarding the food date labeling changes established under the bill. The actual cost of effecting the public information campaign will depend on implementation decisions made by the department, including whether to develop the campaign in house or use a third-party vendor, the media used to disseminate the information, and the frequency of public communication. To the extent that the department collaborates with other State departments and offices, such as the Department of Human Services, which administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to disseminate information about the new food date labels to the public, any increase in State expenditures could be reduced.

The department may also incur indeterminate annual administrative costs under the bill if it decides to designate additional foods as requiring time/temperature control for food safety, or to exempt certain foods from this requirement.

Section: Human Services
Analyst: Anne Cappabianca
Associate Fiscal Analyst
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.).