LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 1403
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 23, 2025

SUMMARY

Synopsis: "Penny's Law"; requires DEP to develop beach accessibility guidelines for persons with disabilities.

Type of Impact: One-time State cost increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Human Services.

Fiscal Impact	
One-Time State Cost Increase	Up to $132,000

- The OLS estimates that the bill would result in a one-time State cost increase of up to $132,000 to develop the beach accessibility guidelines. This estimate assumes that staff time comparable to one full-time equivalent employee would be required to complete the tasks enumerated in the bill.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to develop guidelines for facilities and accommodations necessary to provide beach access for persons with disabilities. The guidelines are to be developed and made public within one year of the bill's effective date. These would include recommendations for ramps, restrooms, showers, boardwalks, surf chairs, parking spaces, and other facilities. The bill requires the Department of Human Services to develop a process by which experts would be notified of the need for their input in the development of the guidelines. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection is required to consider procedures for beach access routes and facilities on federal lands. The bill requires the department to publish these beach accessibility recommendations on its website and to distribute copies to every county and municipality with publicly owned beach or waterfront property. The department is also required to design a uniform label or sign so that State and local governments can display notice of accessibility measures for individuals with disabilities.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None Received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS estimates that the bill would result in a one-time State cost increase of up to $132,000 to develop the beach accessibility guidelines. This estimate assumes that staff time comparable to one full-time equivalent employee would be required to complete the tasks enumerated in the bill. The cost reflects the average salary of a Department of Environmental Protection employee, which is about $81,000, plus fringe benefits. The guidelines are to be developed within one year of the bill's effective date so no additional costs are anticipated beyond that time.

Section:	*Environment, Agriculture, Energy, and Natural Resources*
Analyst:	*Anna Heckler* *Assistant 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.).