

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
 [First Reprint]
 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 71
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 3, 2013

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” in MVC.

Type of Impact: No State impact. Possible positive or negative net impact for local governing bodies.

Agencies Affected: Participating county and municipal governments.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Years 1-3</u>
State Cost/Revenue	No impact.
Local Cost	Possible increase for participating governments.
Local Revenue	Possible increase for participating governments.

- The legislation authorizes the establishment of Yellow Dot programs by counties and municipalities. Participation is voluntary on the part of local governing bodies. Yellow Dot programs are not precluded by current law.
- Local governing bodies that choose to establish a Yellow Dot program are authorized to charge a fee to program participants to offset the administrative costs of the program. The net fiscal impact may be positive or negative, depending on the costs of the program, the amount of the fee, and the level of participation in the program.

BILL DESCRIPTION

The First Reprint of the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 71 of 2012 would authorize the establishment of Yellow Dot programs by any county or municipality in the State. According to the substitute, the purpose of a Yellow Dot program is to provide emergency responders with critical health and emergency contact information about program participants so

that emergency responders may aid program participants who are involved in motor vehicle emergencies or accidents and are unable to communicate.

To implement a Yellow Dot program as authorized by the substitute, a county or municipality would create program materials including, but not limited to: an adhesive yellow decal to be affixed to the rear driver's side window of the program participant's vehicle; a health information card which provides space for an individual to attach a recent photograph and indicate the individual's name, emergency contact information, physicians' names and contact information, medical conditions, recent surgeries, allergies, medications, and any other information deemed to be relevant to emergency responders in the case of a motor vehicle accident or emergency; and a yellow envelope to hold the health information card, which is to be placed in the program participant's glove compartment.

A local governing body that establishes a Yellow Dot program is to make program materials available for pick up at convenient and accessible locations by any person interested in becoming a program participant, as determined by the governing body. The local governing body may also establish a means whereby program materials may be obtained or ordered through the mail or electronically.

The substitute authorizes a local governing body to charge an individual seeking to participate in a Yellow Dot Program a nominal fee to cover the administrative costs of the program, which may include, but not be limited to, the cost of program materials, any public education campaign which may be undertaken to inform the public about the program, and any assistance provided to program participants.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The substitute does not directly affect the State, and would only pertain to county and municipal governing bodies that choose to establish a Yellow Dot program. As current law does not preclude a local government from establishing such a program, and the substitute does not require it, any related costs or revenues would not necessarily be attributable to this legislation. In his veto message for the original version of this substitute, the Governor noted that Mount Laurel Township is already operating a Yellow Dot program, and other localities may also be operating or planning to operate such programs.

A Yellow Dot program operated by a local governing body may have a positive or negative net fiscal impact, depending on several factors. If the governing body of a county or municipality decides to establish a Yellow Dot program, it would determine the level of expenditure necessary to implement the program, including costs to produce and distribute program materials, undertake a public education campaign to inform the public about the program, and provide assistance to program participants. Under the substitute, the governing body may also determine a reasonable fee to be charged to program participants to offset those costs. It is noted that several private retailers sell Yellow Dot program materials on the Internet, which may provide price competition, limiting the fees that local governing bodies may be able to charge. It is possible that actual revenues would exceed or fall short of actual expenses,

depending on the costs of the program, the amount of the fee, and the level of participation in the program.

Section: Human Services

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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.).