

TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL: No

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

LEGISLATOR STATEMENT: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 76, *approved June 30, 2025*
Senate, No. 4632 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the installation of ¹point-of-use¹ filtered bottle-
2 filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools and
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Drinking fountain" means a plumbing fixture that is connected
10 to the potable water distribution system and drainage system that
11 allows a user to obtain a drink directly from a stream of flowing
12 water without the use of any accessory.

13 "Filtered bottle-filling station" or "station" means an apparatus
14 that:

- 15 a. is connected to customer site piping;
16 b. filters water and is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53
17 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate
18 removal;
19 c. has a flow rate through the station that is paired to the
20 specified flow rate of the filter cartridge;
21 d. has a light or other device to indicate filter cartridge
22 replacement status;
23 e. is designed to fill drinking bottles or other containers for
24 personal water consumption; and
25 f. includes a drinking fountain.

26 "Filtered faucet" means a faucet that at the point of use includes
27 a filter that is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53 for lead
28 reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate removal.

29
30 2. a. No later than ¹**[90]** ¹180¹ days after the date of enactment
31 of this act, the Commissioner of Education shall establish a ¹School
32 Lead Filters¹ program to provide grants, subject to available
33 appropriations, for the purchase and installation of ¹point-of-use¹
34 filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools.
35 Public schools may apply to the Department of Education for a
36 grant in a form and manner as determined by the commissioner.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

1 b. The commissioner shall advertise the availability of the grants
2 to public schools and shall publish information about the program
3 on the department's Internet website.

4 c. In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the commissioner
5 shall give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant
6 water quality issues, as evidenced by test results, reports from the
7 Department of Environmental Protection, or reliable data sources
8 indicating elevated levels of lead and other contaminants in
9 drinking water, and to public schools that have not already installed
10 'point-of-use' filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

11
12 3. No later than six months after the date of enactment of this
13 act, the commissioner may develop and disseminate guidance to
14 public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing
15 'point-of-use' filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets.
16 The resources may include information on factors that a school
17 should consider when selecting and siting 'point-of-use' filtered
18 bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets, and for regularly
19 replacing filter cartridges.

20
21 4. No later than six months after the end of the 2025-2026
22 school year, the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor
23 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
24 Legislature on the implementation of the grant program. The report
25 shall include information on the number of grants applied for, the
26 number of grants awarded, and the commissioner's recommendation
27 as to how much additional funding would be needed to meet total
28 demand in all public schools.

29
30 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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33

34

35 Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to purchase
36 and install point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered
37 faucets.

CHAPTER 76

AN ACT concerning the installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools and supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.18A:33-8.1 Definitions.

1. As used in this act:

"Drinking fountain" means a plumbing fixture that is connected to the potable water distribution system and drainage system that allows a user to obtain a drink directly from a stream of flowing water without the use of any accessory.

"Filtered bottle-filling station" or "station" means an apparatus that:

is connected to customer site piping;

filters water and is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate removal;

has a flow rate through the station that is paired to the specified flow rate of the filter cartridge;

has a light or other device to indicate filter cartridge replacement status;

is designed to fill drinking bottles or other containers for personal water consumption; and

includes a drinking fountain.

"Filtered faucet" means a faucet that at the point of use includes a filter that is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate removal.

C.18A:33-8.2 School Lead Filters program.

2. a. No later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this act, the Commissioner of Education shall establish a School Lead Filters program to provide grants, subject to available appropriations, for the purchase and installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools. Public schools may apply to the Department of Education for a grant in a form and manner as determined by the commissioner.

b. The commissioner shall advertise the availability of the grants to public schools and shall publish information about the program on the department's Internet website.

c. In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant water quality issues, as evidenced by test results, reports from the Department of Environmental Protection, or reliable data sources indicating elevated levels of lead and other contaminants in drinking water and to public schools that have not already installed point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

C.18A:33-8.3 Guidance relative to installing point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations, filtered faucets.

3. No later than six months after the date of enactment of this act, the commissioner may develop and disseminate guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. The resources may include information on factors that a school should consider when selecting and siting point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets, and for regularly replacing filter cartridges.

C.18A:33-8.4 Report to Governor, Legislature.

4. No later than six months after the end of the 2025-2026 school year, the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on the implementation of the grant program. The report shall include information on the number of grants applied for, the number of grants awarded, and the

commissioner's recommendation as to how much additional funding would be needed to meet total demand in all public schools.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved June 30, 2025.

SENATE, No. 4632

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 19, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to install filtered drinking water stations and filtered faucets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S4632 SCUTARI

2

1 AN ACT concerning the installation of filtered bottle-filling stations
2 and filtered faucets in public schools and supplementing Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Drinking fountain" means a plumbing fixture that is connected
10 to the potable water distribution system and drainage system that
11 allows a user to obtain a drink directly from a stream of flowing
12 water without the use of any accessory.

13 "Filtered bottle-filling station" or "station" means an apparatus
14 that:

15 a. is connected to customer site piping;

16 b. filters water and is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53
17 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate
18 removal;

19 c. has a flow rate through the station that is paired to the
20 specified flow rate of the filter cartridge;

21 d. has a light or other device to indicate filter cartridge
22 replacement status;

23 e. is designed to fill drinking bottles or other containers for
24 personal water consumption; and

25 f. includes a drinking fountain.

26 "Filtered faucet" means a faucet that at the point of use includes
27 a filter that is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53 for lead
28 reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate removal.

29
30 2. a. No later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this
31 act, the Commissioner of Education shall establish a program to
32 provide grants, subject to available appropriations, for the purchase
33 and installation of filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets
34 in public schools. Public schools may apply to the Department of
35 Education for a grant in a form and manner as determined by the
36 commissioner.

37 b. The commissioner shall advertise the availability of the grants
38 to public schools and shall publish information about the program
39 on the department's Internet website.

40 c. In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the commissioner
41 shall give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant
42 water quality issues, as evidenced by test results, reports from the
43 Department of Environmental Protection, or reliable data sources
44 indicating elevated levels of lead and other contaminants in
45 drinking water, and to public schools that have not already installed
46 filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

S4632 SCUTARI

1 on the implementation of the grant program and information on the
2 number of grants applied for, the number of grants awarded, and the
3 commissioner's recommendation as to how much additional
4 funding would be needed to match total demand in all public
5 schools.

6 It is the sponsor's intent to establish a program to assist school
7 districts in installing filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered
8 faucets in order to better protect children's health. Poor drinking
9 water, and in particular, exposure to lead, contributes to significant
10 health problems. Because children are still growing, their bodies
11 absorb more lead than adults. Negative health impacts of
12 contaminated drinking water include anemia, kidney and brain
13 damage, learning disabilities, and decreased growth.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 4632

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 19, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

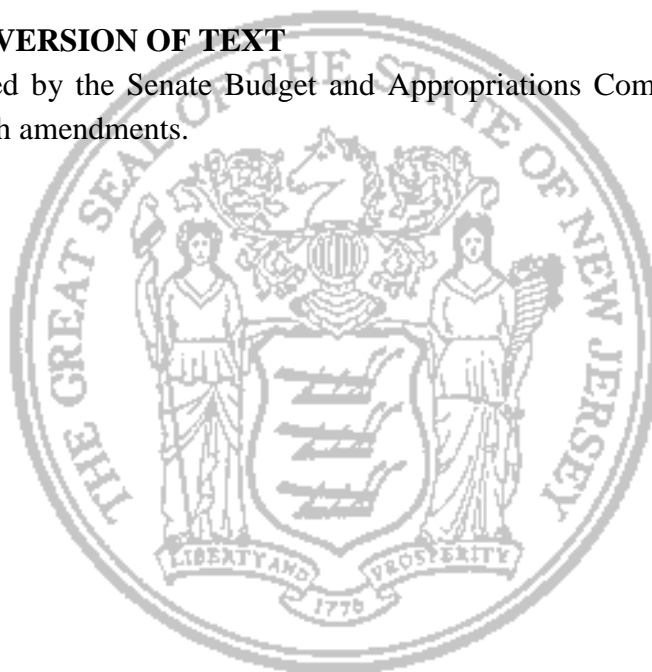
Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Murphy

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to purchase and install point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 26, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the installation of ¹point-of-use¹ filtered bottle-
2 filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools and
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Drinking fountain" means a plumbing fixture that is connected
10 to the potable water distribution system and drainage system that
11 allows a user to obtain a drink directly from a stream of flowing
12 water without the use of any accessory.

13 "Filtered bottle-filling station" or "station" means an apparatus
14 that:

15 a. is connected to customer site piping;

16 b. filters water and is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53
17 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate
18 removal;

19 c. has a flow rate through the station that is paired to the
20 specified flow rate of the filter cartridge;

21 d. has a light or other device to indicate filter cartridge
22 replacement status;

23 e. is designed to fill drinking bottles or other containers for
24 personal water consumption; and

25 f. includes a drinking fountain.

26 "Filtered faucet" means a faucet that at the point of use includes
27 a filter that is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53 for lead
28 reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate removal.

29

30 2. a. No later than ¹**[90]** ¹180¹ days after the date of enactment
31 of this act, the Commissioner of Education shall establish a ¹School
32 Lead Filters¹ program to provide grants, subject to available
33 appropriations, for the purchase and installation of ¹point-of-use¹
34 filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools.
35 Public schools may apply to the Department of Education for a
36 grant in a form and manner as determined by the commissioner.

37 b. The commissioner shall advertise the availability of the grants
38 to public schools and shall publish information about the program
39 on the department's Internet website.

40 c. In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the commissioner
41 shall give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant
42 water quality issues, as evidenced by test results, reports from the
43 Department of Environmental Protection, or reliable data sources
44 indicating elevated levels of lead and other contaminants in

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

1 drinking water, and to public schools that have not already installed
2 'point-of-use' filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

3
4 3. No later than six months after the date of enactment of this
5 act, the commissioner may develop and disseminate guidance to
6 public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing
7 'point-of-use' filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets.
8 The resources may include information on factors that a school
9 should consider when selecting and siting 'point-of-use' filtered
10 bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets, and for regularly
11 replacing filter cartridges.

12
13 4. No later than six months after the end of the 2025-2026
14 school year, the commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor
15 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
16 Legislature on the implementation of the grant program. The report
17 shall include information on the number of grants applied for, the
18 number of grants awarded, and the commissioner's recommendation
19 as to how much additional funding would be needed to meet total
20 demand in all public schools.

21
22 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4632

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 4632.

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a School Lead Filters program to provide grants, subject to available appropriations, for the purchase and installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools no later than 180 days after enactment of the bill. Public schools that wish to apply to the program are to apply to the Department of Education for a grant in a form and manner as determined by the commissioner.

The amended bill requires the commissioner to advertise the availability of the grants to public schools, including publishing information about the program on the department's Internet website.

The amended bill requires the commissioner to give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant water quality issues, as evidenced by test results, reports from the Department of Environmental Protection, or reliable data sources indicating elevated levels of lead and other contaminants in drinking water, as well as to public schools that have not already installed point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

The amended bill permits the commissioner to develop and disseminate guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. The resources may include information on factors that a school should consider when selecting point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations, filtered faucets, and filter cartridges.

The amended bill requires the commissioner to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than six months after the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The report is to contain information on the implementation of the grant program and information on the number of grants applied for, the number of grants awarded, and the commissioner's recommendation as to how much additional funding would be needed to match total demand in all public schools.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) provide that the name of the grant program is the School Lead Filters program;

(2) specify that the filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets, the purchase and installation of which are to be financed with grants under the bill, are to be point-of-use; and

(3) require the Commissioner of Education to establish the program no later than 180 days after enactment instead of no later than 90 days after enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 4632
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 27, 2025

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to install filtered drinking water stations and filtered faucets.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase; annual revenue and expenditure increases for certain public schools.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education. Public schools.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
School District Revenue Increase	Indeterminate
School District Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in annual State costs to fund grants to public schools for the purchase and installation of filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. Public schools selected for grants would experience a related revenue and expenditure increase.
- The bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in administrative costs to the Department of Education if the department develops and disseminates guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. In addition, the department may incur increased one-time costs to produce a report on the implementation of the grant program following the 2025-2026 school year.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Department of Education to establish a program to provide grants, subject to available appropriations, for the purchase and installation of filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools. The bill requires the department, in approving applications, to give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant water quality issues and to public schools that have not already installed filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

The bill permits the department to develop and disseminate guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. The resources may include information on factors that a school should consider when selecting filtered bottle-filling stations, filtered faucets, and filter cartridges.

The bill requires the department to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than six months after the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The report is to contain information on the implementation of the grant program and information on the number of grants applied for, the number of grants awarded, and the department's recommendation as to how much additional funding would be needed to match total demand in all public schools.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in annual State costs due to the provision of grants to public schools for the purchase and installation of filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. Public schools selected for grants would experience a related revenue and expenditure increase. Pursuant to the bill, the provision of grants to public schools is subject to available appropriations, but the bill itself does not include a program appropriation.

By way of background, the OLS notes that public information suggests that the average estimated costs of installing and maintaining a bottle filling station for one year is \$3,450. Meanwhile, the costs for purchasing and installing a filtered faucet will likely be less than the costs of purchasing and installing bottle filling stations.

The bill may also lead to an indeterminate increase in administrative costs to the Department of Education if the department develops and disseminates guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. In addition, the department may incur increased one-time costs to produce a report on the implementation of the grant program after the 2025-2026 school year. The OLS, however, has no insights into whether the department would rely on existing staff to develop the guidance and report or incur increased costs to hire additional staff or contract with a vendor to accomplish these tasks.

Section: Education

*Analyst: Christopher Myles
Senior 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.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 4632 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 3, 2025

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to purchase and install point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State expenditure increase; annual revenue and expenditure increases for certain public schools.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education. Public schools.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
School District Revenue Increase	Indeterminate
School District Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in annual State costs to fund grants to public schools for the purchase and installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. Public schools selected for grants would experience a related revenue and expenditure increase.
- The bill may lead to an indeterminate increase in administrative costs to the Department of Education if the department develops and disseminates guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. In addition, the department may incur increased one-time costs to produce a report on the implementation of the grant program following the 2025-2026 school year.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Department of Education to establish a School Lead Filters program to provide grants, subject to available appropriations, for the purchase and installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools. The bill requires the department, in approving applications, to give priority to public schools that demonstrate

significant water quality issues and to public schools that have not already installed point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

The bill permits the department to develop and disseminate guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. The resources may include information on factors that a school should consider when selecting point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations, filtered faucets, and filter cartridges.

The bill requires the department to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than six months after the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The report is to contain information on the implementation of the grant program and information on the number of grants applied for, the number of grants awarded, and the commissioner's recommendation as to how much additional funding would be needed to match total demand in all public schools.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill will lead to an indeterminate increase in annual State costs due to the provision of grants to public schools for the purchase and installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. Public schools selected for grants would experience a related revenue and expenditure increase. Pursuant to the bill, the provision of grants to public schools is subject to available appropriations, but the bill itself does not include a program appropriation.

By way of background, the OLS notes that public information suggests that the average estimated costs of installing and maintaining a bottle filling station for one year is \$3,450. Meanwhile, the costs for purchasing and installing a filtered faucet will likely be less than the costs of purchasing and installing bottle filling stations.

The bill may also lead to an indeterminate increase in administrative costs to the Department of Education if the department develops and disseminates guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. In addition, the department may incur increased one-time costs to produce a report on the implementation of the grant program after the 2025-2026 school year. The OLS, however, has no insights into whether the department would rely on existing staff to develop the guidance and report or incur increased costs to hire additional staff or contract with a vendor to accomplish these tasks.

Section: Education

Analyst: Christopher Myles
Senior 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.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 5812

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Murphy

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to purchase and install point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/27/2025)

A5812 SCHAER

2

1 AN ACT concerning the installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-
2 filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools and
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7

8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Drinking fountain" means a plumbing fixture that is connected
10 to the potable water distribution system and drainage system that
11 allows a user to obtain a drink directly from a stream of flowing
12 water without the use of any accessory.

13 "Filtered bottle-filling station" or "station" means an apparatus
14 that:

15 a. is connected to customer site piping;

16 b. filters water and is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53
17 for lead reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate
18 removal;

19 c. has a flow rate through the station that is paired to the
20 specified flow rate of the filter cartridge;

21 d. has a light or other device to indicate filter cartridge
22 replacement status;

23 e. is designed to fill drinking bottles or other containers for
24 personal water consumption; and

25 f. includes a drinking fountain.

26 "Filtered faucet" means a faucet that at the point of use includes
27 a filter that is certified to meet NSF/ANSI standard 53 for lead
28 reduction and NSF/ANSI standard 42 for particulate removal.

29

30 2. a. No later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
31 act, the Commissioner of Education shall establish a School Lead
32 Filters program to provide grants, subject to available
33 appropriations, for the purchase and installation of point-of-use
34 filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools.
35 Public schools may apply to the Department of Education for a
36 grant in a form and manner as determined by the commissioner.

37 b. The commissioner shall advertise the availability of the grants
38 to public schools and shall publish information about the program
39 on the department's Internet website.

40 c. In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the commissioner
41 shall give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant
42 water quality issues, as evidenced by test results, reports from the
43 Department of Environmental Protection, or reliable data sources
44 indicating elevated levels of lead and other contaminants in
45 drinking water, and to public schools that have not already installed
46 point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

A5812 SCHAER

1 The bill requires the commissioner to submit a report to the
2 Governor and the Legislature no later than six months after the end
3 of the 2025-2026 school year. The report is to contain information
4 on the implementation of the grant program and information on the
5 number of grants applied for, the number of grants awarded, and the
6 commissioner's recommendation as to how much additional
7 funding would be needed to match total demand in all public
8 schools.

9 It is the sponsor's intent to establish a program to assist school
10 districts in installing filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered
11 faucets in order to better protect children's health. Poor drinking
12 water, and in particular, exposure to lead, contributes to significant
13 health problems. Because children are still growing, their bodies
14 absorb more lead than adults. Negative health impacts of
15 contaminated drinking water include anemia, kidney and brain
16 damage, learning disabilities, and decreased growth.

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5812

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5812.

As reported, this bill requires the Commissioner of Education to establish a School Lead Filters program to provide grants, subject to available appropriations, for the purchase and installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools no later than 180 days after enactment of the bill. Public schools that wish to apply to the program are to apply to the Department of Education for a grant in a form and manner as determined by the commissioner.

The bill requires the commissioner to advertise the availability of the grants to public schools, including publishing information about the program on the department's Internet website.

The bill requires the commissioner to give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant water quality issues, as evidenced by test results, reports from the Department of Environmental Protection, or reliable data sources indicating elevated levels of lead and other contaminants in drinking water, as well as to public schools that have not already installed point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets.

The bill permits the commissioner to develop and disseminate guidance to public schools to assist in the development of plans for installing point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets. The resources may include information on factors that a school should consider when selecting point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations, filtered faucets, and filter cartridges.

The bill requires the commissioner to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than six months after the end of the 2025-2026 school year. The report is to contain information on the implementation of the grant program and information on the number of grants applied for, the number of grants awarded, and the commissioner's recommendation as to how much additional funding would be needed to match total demand in all public schools.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

Bills Gov Acted On

Posted on - 06/30/2025

The Governor has acted on the following bills:

BILL SIGNINGS:

S-4620/A-5879 (McKnight, Mukherji/McCann Stamato) - Amends Fiscal Year 2025 annual appropriations act to assign distribution of Old Courthouse asbestos remediation funding from Hudson County to Jersey City

S-2788wGR/A-4569 (Cruz-Perez, Turner/Freiman, Katz, Simmons) - Appropriates \$128.241 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes

A-5100/S-3991 (Rodriguez/Stack) - Re-appropriates unexpended balance of FY 2024 appropriation for Town of West New York to support recreation center; appropriates \$3 million for Town of West New York – Recreation Center to restore lapsed FY 2024 funding

A-5807/S-4655 (Pintor Marin/Sarlo) - Makes FY2025 supplemental appropriations of \$142,615,000; adds various language provisions to FY2025 Appropriations Act

A-5803/SCS for S-3064 (Bagolie/McKeon, Turner) - Modifies tax on certain forms of online gaming and wagering

ACS for A-4455/SCS for S-4503 (Freiman, Schaer, Karabinchak /Sarlo, Mukherji) - Allows exemption from New Jersey gross income of certain capital gains from sale or exchange of qualified small business stock

A-5805/SCS for S-4659 and 4661 (Venezia/Sarlo, Vitale) - Modifies tax rate on certain nicotine products

A-5804/S-4666 (Reynolds-Jackson/Wimberly) - Modifies payer of additional fees and taxes imposed on certain real property transfers; modifies fees and taxes imposed on property transfers valued over \$2 million

A-5809/S-4656 (Murphy/Vitale) - "Healthcare Finance Enhancement Act"

S-3189/A-2365 (Zwicker, Sarlo/Tully, Murphy, DePhillips) - Makes various changes to “New Jersey Angel Investor Tax Credit Act” and Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program; repeals “New Jersey Ignite Act”

S-4654/A-5878 (Scutari, A.M. Bucco/Schnall, Inganamort) - Provides for publication of required legal notices on government Internet websites and through certain online news publications

A-5801/S-4692 (Freiman/Sarlo) - Appropriates \$247,128,000 from “New Jersey Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund”; establishes process for authorizing future appropriations for debt defeasance and capital projects

(BUDGET BILL – w/Rev Cert. LIV, Summary)

BILL VETOED:

[S-2026/A-5800](#) (Sarlo/Pintor Marin, Park) – w/LINE ITEM Appropriates \$58,782,119,000 in State funds and \$31,007,261,743 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2026

BILL SIGNINGS:

A-5810/S-4660 (Pintor Marin, Dolon, Bagolie/McKeon, McKnight) - Promotes equity in health insurance appeal process

S-4632/A-5812 (Scutari, Ruiz/Schaer) - Establishes grant program in DOE for public schools to purchase and install point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets

S-3618/A-4926 (Smith, Greenstein/Calabrese, Tully, Haider) - Directs DEP and DOT to establish “Wildlife Corridor Action Plan”

S-3933/A-5075 (Ruiz, McKnight/Swain, Morales, Bagolie) - Establishes School Supervisor Mentorship Pilot Program; appropriates \$500,000

A-5077/S-4375 (Morales, Bagolie, Carter/Ruiz, Zwicker) - Extends statutory pause on collection of student growth objective data

A-5795/S-4619 (Pintor Marin, Freiman, Drulis/Zwicker) - Modifies certain provisions of "New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Act"

S-4618/A-5827 (Mukherji, Gopal/Pintor Marin, Peterpaul, Donlon) - Modifies certain requirements and award availability under film and digital media content production tax credit program

S-4122/A-5257 (Burzichelli/Stanley, Egan) - Revises apportionment of State lottery contributions

Governor Murphy Signs Fiscal Year 2026 Budget into Law

Posted on - 06/30/2025

Budget Builds on Governor Murphy's Historic Record of Fiscal Responsibility – With a \$6.7 Billion Surplus to Help Weather Future Financial Challenges Compared to Just \$409 Million Surplus Inherited in 2018

Budget Provides An All-Time High Level of Property Tax Relief, the Highest Level of School Funding in History, and a Fifth Consecutive Full Pension Payment

Budget Makes Historic Investments in Women's Health Care and Provides Funding to Fully Modernize NJ TRANSIT's Fleet

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed into law the Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act, marking a culmination of the Murphy Administration's longstanding commitment to fiscal responsibility, affordability, and opportunity. Over nine budgets spanning nearly eight years in office, Governor Murphy has presided over sustained economic growth while making long overdue investments in addressing the needs of working New Jerseyans, from property tax relief, to school funding, to restoring funding for the State's pension systems.

The \$58.78 billion Fiscal Year 2026 (FY2026) budget, which was passed by the Legislature earlier today, redirects over 75 percent of the total budget back into our communities in the form of grants-in-aid for property tax relief, social services, higher education, as well as State aid to schools, municipalities, and counties. The budget includes an all-time high level of direct property tax relief for homeowners and renters, yields the highest level of school funding in history, and delivers a fifth consecutive full pension payment. It also prioritizes quality health services for women and families, and it invests in beginning to fully modernize NJ TRANSIT's fleet.

Upon taking office, Governor Murphy inherited a \$409 million surplus from his predecessor. Eight years later, the Governor will leave his successor with a surplus 16 times greater than that amount—\$6.7 billion.

"This budget exemplifies our dedication to fiscal responsibility, affordability, and opportunity for all New Jerseyans," **said Governor Murphy**. "Over nearly eight years in office, we have maintained a steadfast commitment to building a stronger and fairer New Jersey and righting our fiscal ship. I'm proud that this budget caps off an eight-year journey to turn our state around and delivers greater economic security and opportunity to every family. With the help of our legislative partners, we are moving New Jersey toward a brighter future for every child, student, worker, parent, and senior citizen who calls our great state home."

"The budget upholds our administration's promise to make sure that New Jersey remains the best state in the nation to live, work, raise a family, and retire," **said Lieutenant Governor Tahesha Way**. "Over the past seven and a half years, we have made historic strides in making our state more affordable for hardworking residents and families through expanded tax relief and major investments in affordable housing, social services, and

education. This state budget is a direct result of the strong collaboration between Governor Murphy, Treasurer Muoio, and legislative leadership.”

“This budget is the culmination of a nearly eight-year effort to improve conditions for all New Jerseyans, building a fiscally stronger state that is more affordable for all,” **said State Treasurer Elizabeth Maher Muoio.** “As always, this budget could not have been completed without the hard work of my staff at the Department of the Treasury and particularly the folks at the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Revenue and Economic Analysis. I want to thank all of them for their tireless work, dedication, and exemplary professionalism over the past seven and a half years.”

“This is a fiscally responsible budget that puts New Jersey families first. At a time when working people are being left behind by misguided decisions in Washington, we’re making smart, strategic investments that deliver meaningful support, especially through historic property tax reductions, strong funding for public education, higher education, healthcare, transit, and a full pension payment,” **said Senate President Nick Scutari, Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz and Senator Paul Sarlo, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee.** “We’re grateful to Governor Murphy and our colleagues in the Legislature for coming together to enact a disciplined, forward-looking budget that safeguards essential services, expands opportunity, and reinforces New Jersey’s long-term fiscal strength.”

Fiscal Responsibility

The budget once again provides a full payment to the pension systems. This year’s \$7.2 billion payment marks the fifth year in a row Governor Murphy has fully funded the systems. Total pension contributions by the Murphy Administration are on track to exceed \$47 billion – nearly four times the \$12.2 billion in total contributions of the previous six governors combined.

With an eye toward ensuring New Jersey remains prepared for the future, this budget provides a surplus of \$6.7 billion, more than ten times larger than the average surplus under the previous administration.

Additionally, the budget includes \$788 million in funding from the Corporate Transit Fee dedicated to support NJ TRANSIT and builds upon \$1.358 billion in interest saved by taxpayers over the last four years by paying down debt and minimizing new debt taken on.

The budget also includes several tax policy changes, including increases for the highest tier of realty transfer fees, sports betting, and cigarettes and vaping, as well as a new exemption for small business investment and reforms to the Angel Investor Tax Credit.

These changes, along with the cuts in appropriations, help ensure that revenues are more closely in line with expenditures.

Affordability and Economic Security

Continuing efforts to make New Jersey affordable for all, this budget includes nearly \$4.3 billion in direct property tax relief for New Jersey homeowners and renters, including \$2.4 billion for the continuation of the popular ANCHOR program, which last year delivered more than \$2.2 billion in property tax relief to nearly two million residents. The budget also continues the Senior Freeze program, with a \$239 million allocation to benefit more than 235,000 taxpayers.

The budget also includes additional funding for the landmark Stay NJ program, allocating \$600 million in

resources to significantly reduce property taxes for more than 432,000 senior homeowners. Stay NJ is expected to launch for the 2025 tax season and will reimburse eligible seniors for up to 50 percent of their property tax bills.

Continuing the focus on making the state more affordable for working and middle-class families, the budget maintains recent expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and the Child Tax Credit.

The tax relief included in this budget brings the total relief provided by the Murphy Administration and our partners in the Legislature to more than double any prior administration.

Continuing efforts to provide quality health services for all, a top priority of this administration, the budget includes \$165 million for the continuation of Cover All Kids; \$55.4 million for the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Senior Gold programs, helping more than 149,000 seniors and residents with disabilities; \$52 million for family planning services and reproductive health programs; and \$35.8 million for Family Connects NJ, which has provided nearly 2,500 free in-home nurse visits to families with newborns and is now available in 11 counties; and \$52 million for family planning services and reproductive health programs.

The proposal also includes \$10 million for a new initiative to provide State employees with full pay while they take family leave to care for a newborn, adopted, or fostered child.

Supporting the Next Generation of New Jerseyans

Last year, Governor Murphy became the first Governor to fully fund the K-12 school funding formula. This budget builds on that commitment, providing record-high school funding in FY2026. The budget includes a record \$12.1 billion for K-12 schools, a nearly \$4 billion increase since FY2018. This budget also addresses feedback from school districts by capping losses in major school aid categories and reducing input volatility, ensuring no district sees a steep reduction in aid from one year to the next. A district's K-12 State aid will not decrease by an amount greater than 3% of the prior year's State aid in the four primary categories: equalization, special education, security, and transportation.

The budget also proposes \$7.5 million in new grant funding to support districts in providing high-impact tutoring to students in need of extra academic support, as well as \$3 million in incentive grants for schools that want to go entirely phone-free, giving students the best opportunity to learn without distraction.

Continuing the push for universal pre-school throughout New Jersey, the FY2026 budget proposes \$1.27 billion for Preschool Education Aid. Since 2018, the Murphy Administration has expanded pre-K to 229 school districts and created nearly 20,000 new seats.

Building New Jersey's Future

In an effort to fortify our transportation infrastructure, this budget includes \$1.23 billion for critical investments in State and local highway and bridge projects, and another \$767 million for NJ TRANSIT to begin to fully modernize its fleet.

To ensure stability and future success for New Jersey's institutions of higher education, this budget provides \$755.2 million in institutional support for State colleges and universities, as well as \$169.1 million for county colleges and \$8.6 million for independent institutions of higher education in New Jersey. This totals \$932.9 million, a nearly 50% increase over the \$629.6 million in funding provided in FY2018.

The budget agreement also provides for \$250 million in bonding for capital grants to higher education institutions. This builds on the \$400 million in capital grants announced in 2023.

The budget also sets aside \$222 million from the Debt Defeasance and Prevention Fund for a critical investment in the construction of a new correctional facility to replace the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women.

An additional one-page policy summary on the central commitments of the FY2026 budget can be found online [here](#).

Governor Murphy signed the Appropriations Act into law today:

S-2026/A-5800 (Sarlo/Pintor Marin, Park) – w/LINE ITEM Appropriates \$58,782,119,000 in State funds and \$31,007,261,743 in federal funds for the State budget for fiscal year 2026

[Line Item Veto Message](#)

[Line Item Veto Summary](#)

[Revenue Certification](#)

In addition to the Appropriations Act, Governor Murphy also signed the following bills into law today:

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S-2788wGR/A-4569 (Cruz-Perez, Turner/Freiman, Katz, Simmons) - Appropriates \$128.241 million from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes

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A-5077/S-4375 (Morales, Bagolie, Carter/Ruiz, Zwicker) - Extends statutory pause on collection of student growth objective data

A-5795/S-4619 (Pintor Marin, Freiman, Drulis/Zwicker) - Modifies certain provisions of "New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Act"

S-4618/A-5827 (Mukherji, Gopal/Pintor Marin, Peterpaul, Donlon) - Modifies certain requirements and award availability under film and digital media content production tax credit program

S-4122/A-5257 (Burzichelli/Stanley, Egan) - Revises apportionment of State lottery contributions

Posted on: July 3, 2025

Schaer Bill Establishing School Lead Filters Program Signed into Law

Legislation aims to ensure students have access to clean, healthy drinking water

(TRENTON) – Assemblyman Gary Schaer’s bill that will help public schools purchase and install filtered water bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets is now law. Governor Phil Murphy signed Bill [A5812](#) on Tuesday, a day after it overwhelmingly passed the New Jersey General Assembly and the New Jersey Senate.



The legislation requires the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to establish a School Lead Filters Program to provide grants for the purchase and installation of point-of-use filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in public schools.

“Our students should be able to focus on their education, without worrying if the water they are drinking is going to cause them significant health problems due to exposure to lead and other contaminants,” **said Assemblyman Schaer (D-Bergen, Passaic)**. “This new law will assist New Jersey’s public school districts in modernizing their infrastructure to ensure they are providing clean drinking water throughout their schools.”

An [investigation](#) found that 56% of schools in New Jersey had water outlets that exceeded the recommended maximum amount for lead in drinking water.

Bill A5812 requires the NJDOE Commissioner, when awarding the grants, to give priority to public schools that demonstrate significant water quality issues, as evidenced by test results, reports from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, or reliable data sources indicating elevated levels of lead or other contaminants in drinking water, and to public schools that have not already installed point-of-use filtered bottle filling stations or filtered faucets.