Temporary & Executed

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2021 CHAPTER: 60

NJSA: Temporary & Executed (Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program.")

BILL NO: S3070 (Substituted for A4884)

SPONSOR(S) Weinberg, Loretta and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 10/22/2020

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Women & Children

SENATE: Law & Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: 3/1/2021

SENATE: 12/17/2020

DATE OF APPROVAL: 4/19/2021

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted)

Yes

S3070

INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT): Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

(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: Yes 12/14/2020

12/21/2020

A4884

INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT): Yes

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: Yes 12/14/2020

3/2/2021

VETO MESSAGE:	No
GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED: To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or mailto:refo	
REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes

Livio, Susan K.. "New laws expand rape victims' rights." Times, The (Trenton, NJ), April 21, 2021: 003.

RH/CL

T&E

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 60, approved April 19, 2021 Senate, No. 3070 (First Reprint)

1 AN ACT establishing a "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

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

- 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a three-year "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program" to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence. The Attorney General shall implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. The Attorney General shall select the organizations, who are to have expertise in trauma informed care and not be associated with any law enforcement agency, through requests for proposals. Both organizations shall be compensated.
- b. Through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program shall implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process.
- ¹A survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual assault shall not be required to participate in the restorative justice program. If a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no longer participate at any time.¹
- The pilot program shall be established in one northern, one central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the Attorney General.
- c. The Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and, pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report shall evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

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

S3070 [1R]

1	d. For the purposes of this section, "restorative justice" means
2	an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct
3	involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's
4	family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling
5	the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable
6	the person who caused the harm, and which may be implemented
7	through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact
8	panels, and facilitated conferences.
9	
10	2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
11	the filing of the report required pursuant to subsection c. of section
12	1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
13	this bill).
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SENATE, No. 3070

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by: Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by: Senators Pou and Gill

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/10/2020)

S3070 WEINBERG, TURNER

1 AN ACT establishing a "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

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

- 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a three-year "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program" to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence. The Attorney General shall implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. The Attorney General shall select the organizations, who are to have expertise in trauma informed care and not be associated with any law enforcement agency, through requests for proposals. Both organizations shall be compensated.
- b. Through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program shall implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process.

The pilot program shall be established in one northern, one central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the Attorney General.

- c. The Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and, pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report shall evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.
- d. For the purposes of this section, "restorative justice" means an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm, and which may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon the filing of the report required pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

STATEMENT

 This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program" to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under the bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process. The pilot program is to be established in one northern, one central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the Attorney General.

The bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

Finally, the bill requires the Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to the provisions of the bill, to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report is to evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint] **SENATE, No. 3070**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3070 (1R).

This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program" to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under this bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process. This bill also provides that a survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual assault are not to be required to participate in the restorative justice program. In addition, if a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no longer participate at any time.

The pilot program is to be established in one northern, one central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the Attorney General.

The bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

Finally, the Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to the provisions of the bill, is required to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report is to evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

Senate Bill No. 3070 (1R), which is sponsored by Senators Weinberg and Turner, was reported with committee amendments by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3070 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4884 which was reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3070

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3070.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program" to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the amended bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the amended bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under the amended bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process. The amended bill provides that a survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual assault are not to be required to participate in the restorative justice program. In addition, if a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no longer participate at any time.

The pilot program is to be established in one northern, one central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the Attorney General.

The amended bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person

who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

Finally, the amended bill requires the Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to the provisions of the bill, to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report is to evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to provide that:

- 1) a survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual assault are not to be required to participate in the restorative justice program; and
- 2) if a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no longer participate at any time.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE SENATE, No. 3070 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2020

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

Type of Impact: Three-Year Expenditure Increase to the State.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds the bill will result in a three-year indeterminate State cost increase to implement the Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program. State costs will increase through the bill's requirement that the State contract with and compensate organizations to design and conduct the three-year program. The bill will also increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety during the duration of the program.
- Under the bill, the Office of the Attorney General is to implement this three-year pilot program in one northern county, one central county, and one southern county by entering into an agreement, which is to include compensation, with two separate organizations: 1) an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance; and 2) an organization to conduct the program. The OLS does not have information regarding the costs associated with these contracts, the scope of the program, or the number of individuals who may participate.
- The bill requires the department to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days after the completion of the pilot program. The report is to recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.



BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under the bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process.

The bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

Finally, the bill requires the Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to the provisions of the bill, to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report is to evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds the bill will result in a three-year indeterminate State cost increase to implement the Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program. State costs will increase through the bill's requirement that the State contract with and compensate organizations to design and conduct the three-year program. The bill will also increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General during the duration of the program.

Expenditures: Under the bill, the Office of the Attorney General is to implement a three-region, three-year pilot program. The program is required to be implemented in one northern county, one central county, and one southern county. The State is to enter into an agreement with two separate organizations to implement the program: 1) an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance; and 2) an organization to conduct the program. The bill requires the department to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days after the completion of the pilot program. The report is to recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

The OLS estimates that the requirements of the bill will increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Additionally. The OLS estimates the costs associated with bidding the two contracts and the final costs of the three-year contracts will increase State costs by an indeterminate amount. The OLS does not have information regarding the costs associated with the program, the program's final scope, or the number of individuals who may participate.

Finally, nationwide restorative justice appears to be a more recent initiative in the modern criminal justice toolkit. The OLS is not certain how this three-year pilot program may impact the number of sexual violence criminal justice cases. Criminal justice cases may be resolved at greater numbers with the available restorative justice tools, which may bring attention and resolution to the occurrence between the survivor and the perpetrator.

Section: Law and Public Safety

Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig

Assistant 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. 3070 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 21, 2020

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

Type of Impact: Three-Year Expenditure Increase to the State.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds the bill will result in a three-year indeterminate State cost increase to implement the Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program. State costs will increase through the bill's requirement that the State contract with and compensate organizations to design and conduct the three-year program. The bill will also increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety during the duration of the program.
- Under the bill, the Office of the Attorney General is to implement this three-year pilot program in one northern county, one central county, and one southern county by entering into an agreement, which is to include compensation, with two separate organizations: 1) an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance; and 2) an organization to conduct the program. The OLS does not have information regarding the costs associated with these contracts, the scope of the program, or the number of individuals who may participate.
- The bill requires the department to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days after the completion of the pilot program. The report is to recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.



BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under the bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process. The bill provides that a survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual assault are not to be required to participate in the restorative justice program. In addition, if a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no longer participate at any time.

The bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

Finally, the bill requires the Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to the provisions of the bill, to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report is to evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds the bill will result in a three-year indeterminate State cost increase to implement the Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program. State costs will increase through the bill's requirement that the State contract with and compensate organizations to design and conduct the three-year program. The bill will also increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General during the duration of the program.

Expenditures: Under the bill, the Office of the Attorney General is to implement a three-region, three-year pilot program. The program is required to be implemented in one northern county, one central county, and one southern county. The State is to enter into an agreement with two separate organizations to implement the program: 1) an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance; and 2) an organization to conduct the program. The bill requires the department to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor

and the Legislature within 90 days after the completion of the pilot program. The report is to recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

The OLS estimates that the requirements of the bill will increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Additionally, the OLS estimates the costs associated with bidding the two contracts and the final costs of the three-year contracts will increase State costs by an indeterminate amount. The OLS does not have information regarding the costs associated with the program, the program's final scope, or the number of individuals who may participate.

Finally, nationwide restorative justice appears to be a more recent initiative in the modern criminal justice toolkit. The OLS is not certain how this three-year pilot program may impact the number of sexual violence criminal justice cases. Criminal justice cases may be resolved at greater numbers with the available restorative justice tools for those opting to participate, which may bring attention and resolution to the occurrence between the survivor and the perpetrator.

Section: Law and Public Safety

Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig

Assistant 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. 4884

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 26, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Zwicker, Assemblywoman Speight and Assemblyman Johnson

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

A4884 VAINIERI HUTTLE, MCKNIGHT

1 AN ACT establishing a "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

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

- 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a three-year "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program" to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence. The Attorney General shall implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. The Attorney General shall select the organizations, who are to have expertise in trauma informed care and not be associated with any law enforcement agency, through requests for proposals. Both organizations shall be compensated.
- b. Through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program shall implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process.

The pilot program shall be established in one northern, one central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the Attorney General.

- c. The Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and, pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report shall evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.
- d. For the purposes of this section, "restorative justice" means an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm, and which may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon the filing of the report required pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

STATEMENT

 This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program" to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under the bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process. The pilot program is to be established in one northern, one central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the Attorney General.

The bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

Finally, the bill requires the Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to the provisions of the bill, to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report is to evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4884

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4884.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program" to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the amended bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the amended bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under the amended bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process. The amended bill provides that a survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual assault are not to be required to participate in the restorative justice program. In addition, if a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no longer participate at any time.

The pilot program is to be established in one northern, one central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the Attorney General.

The amended bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through

varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

Finally, the amended bill requires the Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to the provisions of the bill, to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report is to evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

As amended by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4884 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3070 (1R), sponsored by Senators Weinberg and Turner, which was reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to provide that:

- 1) a survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual assault are not to be required to participate in the restorative justice program; and
- 2) if a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no longer participate at any time.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4884 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3070 (1R) which was also reported by the committee on this date.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4884 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 2020

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

Type of Impact: Three-Year Expenditure Increase to the State.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds the bill will result in a three-year indeterminate State cost increase to implement the Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program. State costs will increase through the bill's requirement that the State contract with and compensate organizations to design and conduct the three-year program. The bill will also increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety during the duration of the program.
- Under the bill, the Office of the Attorney General is to implement this three-year pilot program in one northern county, one central county, and one southern county by entering into an agreement, which is to include compensation, with two separate organizations: 1) an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance; and 2) an organization to conduct the program. The OLS does not have information regarding the costs associated with these contracts, the scope of the program, or the number of individuals who may participate.
- The bill requires the department to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days after the completion of the pilot program. The report is to recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.



BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under the bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process.

The bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

Finally, the bill requires the Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations selected pursuant to the provisions of the bill, to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days of completion of the program. The report is to evaluate the pilot program and recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds the bill will result in a three-year indeterminate State cost increase to implement the Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program. State costs will increase through the bill's requirement that the State contract with and compensate organizations to design and conduct the three-year program. The bill will also increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General during the duration of the program.

Expenditures: Under the bill, the Office of the Attorney General is to implement a three-region, three-year pilot program. The program is required to be implemented in one northern county, one central county, and one southern county. The State is to enter into an agreement with two separate organizations to implement the program: 1) an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance; and 2) an organization to conduct the program. The bill requires the department to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days after the completion of the pilot program. The report is to recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

The OLS estimates that the requirements of the bill will increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Additionally. The OLS estimates the costs associated with bidding the two contracts and the final costs of the three-year contracts will increase State costs by an indeterminate amount. The OLS does not have information regarding the costs associated with the program, the program's final scope, or the number of individuals who may participate.

Finally, nationwide restorative justice appears to be a more recent initiative in the modern criminal justice toolkit. The OLS is not certain how this three-year pilot program may impact the number of sexual violence criminal justice cases. Criminal justice cases may be resolved at greater numbers with the available restorative justice tools, which may bring attention and resolution to the occurrence between the survivor and the perpetrator.

Section: Law and Public Safety

Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig

Assistant 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]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4884 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 2, 2021

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."

Type of Impact: Three-Year Expenditure Increase to the State.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds the bill will result in a three-year indeterminate State cost increase to implement the Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program. State costs will increase through the bill's requirement that the State contract with and compensate organizations to design and conduct the three-year program. The bill will also increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety during the duration of the program.
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- The bill requires the department to submit a report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the Governor and the Legislature within 90 days after the completion of the pilot program. The report is to recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.



BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a three-year Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program to implement a restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence.

The Attorney General is to implement this program by entering into an agreement with an organization to design the program and provide technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization to conduct the program. Under the bill, the Attorney General is to select the organizations through requests for proposals. The organizations are to have expertise in trauma informed care and are not to be associated with any law enforcement agency. In addition, the bill requires that both organizations be compensated.

Under the bill, through the direct participation of survivors of sexual violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program is required to implement restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to, upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes that are essential to the survivor's healing process. The bill provides that a survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual assault are not to be required to participate in the restorative justice program. In addition, if a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no longer participate at any time.

The bill defines "restorative justice" as an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim's family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling the victim's expectations for justice while also holding accountable the person who caused the harm. Restorative justice may be implemented through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact panels, and facilitated conferences.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds the bill will result in a three-year indeterminate State cost increase to implement the Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program. State costs will increase through the bill's requirement that the State contract with and compensate organizations to design and conduct the three-year program. The bill will also increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General during the duration of the program.

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and the Legislature within 90 days after the completion of the pilot program. The report is to recommend whether the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or made permanent.

The OLS estimates that the requirements of the bill will increase the workload of the Office of the Attorney General in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Additionally, the OLS estimates the costs associated with bidding the two contracts and the final costs of the three-year contracts will increase State costs by an indeterminate amount. The OLS does not have information regarding the costs associated with the program, the program's final scope, or the number of individuals who may participate.

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Section: Law and Public Safety

Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos

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.).

Governor Murphy Signs Bills Strengthening How Law Enforcement Agencies in New Jersey Manage Sexual Assault Cases

04/19/2021

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed a series of bills strengthening how law enforcement agencies handle sexual assault cases. These bills direct law enforcement agencies to allocate additional resources to sexual assault cases, increase training for prosecutors on how to manage these cases, and change reporting structures to ensure that survivors are properly notified about their cases. As part of this package of bills, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal will also be tasked with publishing an annual report detailing the scope of sexual assault incidents statewide.

"It is imperative that we take steps to make sure that survivors in New Jersey know they can seek justice," **said Governor Murphy.** "Giving our law enforcement agencies clear directives and guidance on how to manage sexual assault cases will ensure that these cases are handled with survivors in mind. These long-overdue reforms will change how survivors interact with law enforcement agencies and provide additional information on the scope of these incidents. I am proud to sign these bills into law."

Previously, Governor Murphy signed the Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights, legislation to protect survivors, and legislation to create a new commission on campus sexual assault. Attorney General Grewal also issued a directive to law enforcement in 2018 that created fourteen protocols prioritizing the needs and concerns of sexual assault victims in New Jersey and ensuring that victims are treated with respect and understanding by law enforcement in the days, weeks, and months after reporting an assault. Many of today's actions codify and expand on that 2018 directive.

Governor Murphy today signed the following legislation:

- **\$3070/A4884** (Weinberg, Turner/Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson) Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."
- **\$3071/4885** (Weinberg, Ruiz/Vainieri Huttle, Lopez, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires law enforcement provide victim of sexual assault with initial incident report; provides victim with option to review initial incident report and submit corrective form.
- **S3072/A4886** (Weinberg, Cunningham/Vainieri Huttle, Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires resources be made available to victims of sexual assault.
- **\$3073/A4887** (Weinberg, Corrado/Vainieri Huttle, Jasey, Timberlake) Establishes right of victims to be notified of county prosecutor's charging decision in sexual assault cases.
- **\$3074/A4888** (Weinberg, Greenstein/Vainieri Huttle, Lopez) Requires the Office of the Attorney General to issue an annual report concerning sexual assault cases.
- **\$3075/A4889** (Weinberg, Pou/Vainieri Huttle, Quijano, Speight) Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.
- **\$3076/A4890** (Weinberg, Gill/Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires sexual assault training for prosecutors.

"This legislation codifies and in some instances expands upon the important steps our office has taken in the last several years to improve the way law enforcement officers and prosecutors engage with victims of sexual assault, with the goal of ensuring that survivors' cases are handled in accordance with best practices by police and prosecutors," said Attorney General Grewal. "With the signing of these bills into

law, New Jersey stands as a model for improving survivor-focused case management and law enforcement training and reporting, so we can achieve justice while treating survivors of sex crimes with the respect and compassion they deserve."

"Today, New Jersey adds to its portfolio of survivor-centered, trauma-informed laws and transforms how our state responds to the needs of survivors of sexual violence," said Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA). "The signing of todays' package of bills is a direct reflection of what kind of change is possible when we collectively center the lived experiences of survivors to inform necessary policy and practice reforms. NJCASA is thankful for the survivors, advocates, bill sponsors, and Governor Murphy who made this possible."

ent Demonstration Program."

Copy of Statement

SENATE BILL NO.2725 (First Reprint)

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2725 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would make various changes to the assessment and appeals process in 1) counties operating under the Real Property Assessment Demonstration Program ("Demonstration Program"), currently, only Monmouth County; 2) counties operating under the Property Tax Assessment Reform Act ("Reform Act"), limited in statute to Gloucester County; and 3) counties that have adopted the alternative real property assessment calendar establishment pursuant to the Demonstration Program, currently, only Burlington County.

Among other changes, the bill would amend P.L.2017, c.306 to add a definition of what constitutes a "good-faith attempt to physically inspect" the interior of properties located in counties participating in the Demonstration Program and the Reform Act and add any county who has adopted the alternative assessment calendar to the list of counties subject to the requirements of the law. Under the bill, a county participating in a Demonstration Program would be permitted to conduct an interior inspection virtually, using smartphone technology and protocols adopted by the county board of taxation, at the discretion of the taxpayer. This virtual inspection option would be available for all assessment-related functions conducted in a Demonstration Program county.

With respect to appeals of property tax assessments, the bill provides that taxpayers in a Demonstration Program county are not entitled to appeal an assessment if the taxpayer has refused an assessor's request to internally inspect the property. In addition, the bill specifies that the so-called "Chapter 123 ratio"

shall not apply to taxpayer appeals in a Demonstration Program county in any tax year in which a municipal-wide reassessment or other form of district-wide assessment review occurs. The Chapter 123 ratio eliminates the burden of demonstrating that property was assessed at greater than true value and of proving the common level of assessment for all properties in the municipality.

I applaud the bill's sponsors for attempting to further clarify and streamline the tax assessment functions in those counties that have chosen to participate in the Demonstration Program or the Reform Act. These laws were enacted with the intent of modeling more cost-effective and accurate real property assessment administration. As participating counties' experiences reveal additional opportunities for streamlining and standardizing the assessment function, it is important that statutes keep pace.

While I support the reform measures contemplated in this bill, I am concerned that the bill may inappropriately single out participating counties in a manner that could unconstitutional disparities among taxpayers based on where they The uniformity clause of the New Jersey Constitution requires all property to be assessed for taxation under "general laws," by "uniform rules" and "according to the same standard of value." N.J. Const. Art. 8, Sec. 1, par. 1. By mandating the automatic dismissal of an appeal whenever a taxpayer refuses a virtual inspection only in the case of those taxpayers located in a Demonstration Program county, the bill denies these taxpayers a right to relief that is available to other taxpayers. The same is true for the bill's provision narrowing applicability of the Chapter 123 ratio to exclude certain appeals in a Demonstration Program county, while leaving it in place for appeals taking place in other counties under identical circumstances.

To avoid this outcome, I am recommending revisions to apply the important reform measures proposed in the bill to all counties, or, where appropriate, to all municipalities implementing annual reassessments or compliance plans. This will ensure that the rules are uniform throughout the State while also enabling all counties and taxpayers to benefit from the bill's efficiencies.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2725 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Title, Lines 1-2:
Delete "in certain counties"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 20:
Delete "eighth"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 22:
Delete "eight-year"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 38: Delete "However,"

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 39-43: Delete in their entirety

Page 3, Section 1, Lines 1-9:
Delete in their entirety

Page 3, Section 1, Line 10:

Delete "In the case of a municipality located in a county wherein the" and insert "Notwithstanding provisions of this section, in any municipality implementing a revaluation program approved by the Director of the Division of Taxation pursuant to P.L.1971, c.424 (C. 54:1-35.35 et seq.), district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation"

Page 3, Section 1, Lines 11-12: Delete in

Delete in their entirety

Page 3, Section 1, Line 13:

Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104),"

Page 6, Section 3, Line 26:

After "seq.)" insert ", district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all

property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation pursuant to R.S.54:4-23"

Page 6, Section 3, Lines 27-39:

Delete in their entirety

Page 6, Section 3, Line 40:

Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104), at" and insert "g. At"

Page 7, Section 3, Lines 3-5:

Delete in their entirety

Page 7, Section 3, Line 6:

Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104), at" and insert "h. At"

Page 7, Section 3, Lines 9-10:

Delete "the county's online appeal system, and"

Page 7, Section 3, Line 11:

After "taxation." insert "The county board of taxation may relax the requirement of the time of the taxpayer's appeal as the needs of justice allow."

Page 7, Section 4, Line 36:

Delete "or a" and insert "district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation pursuant to R.S.54:4-23."

Page 7, Section 4, Lines 37-47:

Delete in their entirety

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor