



**153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL:	HOUSE BILL NO. 220
SPONSOR:	Representative Heffernan
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 10 AND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE JUVENILE CIVIL CITATION PROGRAM.

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective 18 months upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act requires peace officers to consider issuing a civil citation to qualified juvenile offenders in place of criminal charges for specified offenses. If a citation is not issued, the officer must document the reason in the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS). Additionally, this Act provides that all law enforcement agencies must annually report on citation usage to the Police Officer Standards and Training Commission and mandates training requirements of the Juvenile Civil Citation Program for police officers.
3. This Act would require DELJIS to undertake significant programming and system design changes to its Law Enforcement Investigative Support Suite (LEISS). The documentation requirements created by this Act will require DELJIS to create functionality so that peace officers can record when they choose not to issue a juvenile civil citation, provide an explanation, and develop the various reporting mechanisms as called for in this Act. Currently, the system only tracks when a citation is issued. This change will require redesigning and linking various internal systems maintained by DELJIS to ensure a continuity of information flow. Further, as part of this project, DELJIS anticipates that it would need to backfill a contractual software developer to ensure normal day-to-day operations and ongoing maintenance of LEISS during the project's redesign, implementation, and testing phases.
 - a. Based on its current contractual rates for software programmers, DELJIS estimates it would require one-time funding of \$468,176 for dedicated system programming resources allocated for planning, designing, implementing, and testing the Juvenile Civil Citation program by this Act's effective date.

Cost:

	<u>One-Time</u>
Fiscal Year 2026:	\$468,176
Fiscal Year 2027:	-
Fiscal Year 2028:	-

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Office of the Controller General