

Title 52.  
Subtitle 3.  
Chapter 27J.  
(Rename)  
Office of  
Food  
Security  
Advocate

**(CORRECTED COPY)**

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 483, *approved January 18, 2022*  
Assembly, No. 6159

1 **AN ACT** concerning the Office of the Food Insecurity Advocate and  
2 amending P.L.2021, c.242.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.242 (C.52:27J-1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 (a) Over one million people are estimated to be food insecure in  
11 New Jersey and more than one-third of them are children;

12 (b) The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic is projected to cause  
13 a disproportionate increase in the rate of food insecurity in this  
14 State compared to the national rate and neighboring states;

15 (c) Several departments are responsible for administering  
16 different food insecurity programs in the State: the Department of  
17 Human Services administers the New Jersey Supplemental  
18 Nutrition Assistance Program; the Department of Health  
19 administers the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Program for  
20 Women Infants and Children; and the Department of Agriculture  
21 administers the United States Department of Agriculture's school  
22 nutrition program in New Jersey;

23 (d) The State's food insecurity programs are currently operating  
24 in silos and, in some cases, they may all cover the same families,  
25 yet not all eligible families are enrolled into each program; and

26 (e) Establishing an Office of the Food **[Insecurity]** Security  
27 Advocate by statute will help coordinate the administration of the  
28 State's food insecurity programs, advocate for the food insecure,  
29 and develop new policy initiatives to combat hunger and facilitate  
30 greater access to food relief programs.

31 (cf: P.L.2021, c.242, s.1)

**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.

1       2. Section 3 of P.L.2021, c.242 (C.52:27J-3) is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       3. There is created in the Executive Branch of the State  
4 Government the Office of the Food **【Insecurity】** Security Advocate.  
5 For the purpose of complying with the provisions of Article V,  
6 Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the Office  
7 of the Food **【Insecurity】** Security Advocate is allocated to the  
8 **【Economic Development Authority in the】** Department of **【the**  
9 **Treasury】** Agriculture , but notwithstanding this allocation, the  
10 office shall be independent of any supervision or control by the  
11 **【Economic Development Authority or by the】** department, or by  
12 any board or officer thereof, in the performance of its duties. The  
13 office shall have the duty to collaborate with the appropriate State  
14 agency to:

15       (a) coordinate outreach for food insecurity programs, including  
16 developing new initiatives and outreach campaigns and identifying  
17 best practices to increase enrollment in the State's food insecurity  
18 programs;

19       (b) establish a 24-hour toll-free hunger hotline to assist in  
20 making information about the State's food insecurity programs as  
21 widely available as possible;

22       (c) support grant application processes related to food insecurity  
23 for in-state providers and State departments by monitoring available  
24 grants, recommending grant applications, and assisting with the  
25 grant application process;

26       (d) coordinate communication with and between food banks;

27       (e) establish best practices for food banks to reduce food waste  
28 and to distribute more fresh produce and proteins to food insecurity  
29 programs and food banks;

30       (f) cooperate with research organizations and universities to  
31 monitor ongoing gap analysis that identifies areas that are  
32 undeserved by current food insecurity programs;

33       (g) work with State and community partners to develop a  
34 strategic plan to address identified gaps in areas that are undeserved  
35 by current food insecurity programs;

36       (h) oversee the development and implementation of public-  
37 private partnerships to address food insecurity;

38       (i) provide support in coordinating assistance to address food  
39 insecurity during federal or State declared states of emergency;

40       (j) coordinate food insecurity programming and initiatives for  
41 institutions of higher education with the Office of the Secretary of  
42 Higher Education;

43       (k) develop new initiatives, establish an outreach campaign, and  
44 identify best practices to reach senior citizens, persons with  
45 disabilities, and other vulnerable population; and

46       (l) coordinate outreach efforts for the newly unemployed who  
47 might be eligible for food insecurity programs.

48 (cf: P.L.2021, c.242, s.3)

1       3. Section 4 of P.L.2021, c.242 (C.52:27J-4) is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       4. The administrator and chief executive officer of the office is  
4 the food **【insecurity】** security advocate, who shall be a person  
5 qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the  
6 office. The food **【insecurity】** security advocate shall be appointed  
7 by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor  
8 during the Governor's term of office and until the appointment and  
9 qualification of the food **【insecurity】** security advocate's successor.  
10 The food **【insecurity】** security advocate shall devote time entirely  
11 to the duties of the position and shall receive a salary as determined  
12 by law. Any vacancy occurring in the position of the food  
13 **【insecurity】** security advocate shall be filled in the same manner as  
14 the original appointment; except that if the food **【insecurity】**  
15 security advocate dies, resigns, becomes ineligible to serve for any  
16 reason, or is removed from office, the Governor shall appoint an  
17 acting food **【insecurity】** security advocate, who shall serve until the  
18 appointment and qualification of the food **【insecurity】** security  
19 advocate's successor, but in no event longer than six months from  
20 the occurrence of the vacancy, and who shall exercise during this  
21 period all the powers and duties of the food **【insecurity】** security  
22 advocate pursuant to the provisions of this act.

23 (cf: P.L.2021, c.242, s.4)

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25       4. Section 5 of P.L.2021, c.242 (C.52:27J-5) is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27       5. The food **【insecurity】** security advocate, as administrator  
28 and chief executive officer of the office, shall:

29       a. administer and organize the work of the office and establish  
30 therein such administrative subdivisions as the food **【insecurity】**  
31 security advocate may deem necessary, proper and expedient. The  
32 food **【insecurity】** security advocate may formulate and adopt rules  
33 and regulations and prescribe duties for the efficient conduct of the  
34 business, work and general administration of the office. The food  
35 **【insecurity】** security advocate may delegate to subordinate officers  
36 or employees in the office such power as the food **【insecurity】**  
37 security advocate may deem desirable to be exercised under the  
38 food **【insecurity】** security advocate's supervision and control;

39       b. appoint and remove stenographic, clerical, and other  
40 secretarial assistants as may be required for the proper conduct of  
41 the office, subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey  
42 Statutes, and other applicable statutes, and within the limits of  
43 funds appropriated or otherwise made available therefor. In  
44 addition, and within funding limits, the food **【insecurity】** security  
45 advocate may appoint, retain, or employ, without regard to the  
46 provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes or any other  
47 statutes, any officers, financial managers, social workers, or other

- 1 professionally qualified personnel on a contract basis or otherwise  
2 as the food **【insecurity】** security advocate deems necessary;
- 3 c. maintain suitable headquarters for the office and such other  
4 quarters as the food **【insecurity】** security advocate shall deem  
5 necessary to the proper functioning of the office;
- 6 d. solicit and accept grants of funds from the federal  
7 government and from other public and any private sources for any  
8 of the purposes of this act; provided, however, that any such funds  
9 shall be expended only pursuant to an appropriation made by law;
- 10 e. serve as the liaison between the Office of the Food  
11 **【Insecurity】** Security Advocate and the Departments of Agriculture,  
12 Education, Health, and Human Services; and
- 13 f. perform such other functions as may be prescribed in this act  
14 or by any other law.

15 (cf: P.L.2021, c.242, s.5)

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17 5. Section 6 of P.L.2021, c.242 (C.52:27J-6) is amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 6. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,  
20 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the food **【insecurity】** security advocate  
21 and the Commissioners of Agriculture, Education, Health, and  
22 Human Services may adopt any rules and regulations necessary to  
23 effectuate the purposes of this act.

24 (cf: P.L.2021, c.242, s.6)

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26 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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31 This bill renames the Office of the Food Insecurity Advocate and  
32 the position of the food insecurity advocate as the Office of the  
33 Food Security and food security advocate, respectively. The bill  
34 also provides that the office will be allocated to the Department of  
35 Agriculture, instead of the Economic Development Authority in the  
36 Department of the Treasury.

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Revises and renames Office of Food Insecurity Advocate.