

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1775**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Senator GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Danielsen, Assemblywomen Murphy, McKnight, Lopez, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblymen Mejia, Stanley, Assemblywoman Mosquera, Senators Cruz-Perez, Greenstein, Assemblyman Conaway, Assemblywoman Chaparro, Assemblyman Spearman and Assemblywoman Park**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DCA provide certain information on low-income home energy assistance program, annually update program handbook and issue program request for proposal, and provide quarterly training sessions on administering program.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Economic Growth Committee on November 3, 2022, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/15/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the administration of the low-income home  
 2 energy assistance benefits program and supplementing Title 52  
 3 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7  
 8 1. a. The Department of Community Affairs shall establish a  
 9 schedule of days and hours of operation, a toll-free telephone  
 10 number, and a downloadable application on its Internet website to  
 11 facilitate the receipt of benefits under the federal Low Income  
 12 Home Energy Assistance Program, established pursuant to 42  
 13 U.S.C. s.8621 et seq. <sup>2</sup>Within six months following the effective  
 14 date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
 15 this bill), the department shall make available all application  
 16 materials for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance  
 17 Program, including the downloadable application required under  
 18 this subsection, in each of the five most commonly spoken  
 19 languages in the State, as determined by the department.<sup>2</sup>

20 b. The department shall prepare and annually update a  
 21 handbook containing the governing policies and eligibility  
 22 requirements for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance  
 23 Program. The department shall annually distribute copies of the  
 24 handbook and its updates to each agency designated by the  
 25 department to obtain, review, and process applications for benefits  
 26 under that program.

27 c. The department shall adopt training sessions regarding the  
 28 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that cover subjects  
 29 including, but not limited to, enrollment procedures, eligibility  
 30 requirements, and fraud detection. The training sessions shall be  
 31 provided on a quarterly basis and open to any agency that obtains,  
 32 reviews, and processes applications under that program.

33 d. (1) Each director, manager, supervisor, and employee of an  
 34 agency that obtains, reviews, and processes Low Income Home  
 35 Energy Assistance Program applications, <sup>2</sup>including any person<sup>2</sup>  
 36 who performs or supervises such program work, shall read the  
 37 annually updated handbooks distributed by the department pursuant  
 38 to subsection b. of this section and shall comply with the policies  
 39 and procedures set forth therein for the applicable year.

40 (2) Each supervisor of an agency that obtains, reviews, and  
 41 processes Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program  
 42 applications, <sup>2</sup>including any person<sup>2</sup> who supervises such program  
 43 work, shall attend the quarterly training sessions provided by the  
 44 department pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted May 26, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SEG committee amendments adopted November 3, 2022.

- 1 e. <sup>1</sup>The department shall establish an open and competitive  
2 process, utilizing an annual request for proposal to be developed  
3 and issued by the department, to award grants to qualified nonprofit  
4 organizations to serve as agencies that obtain, review, and process  
5 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program applications. The  
6 annual request for proposal developed and issued by the department  
7 pursuant to this subsection shall detail the necessary qualifications  
8 that a qualified nonprofit organization is required to meet to serve  
9 as an agency that obtains, reviews, and processes Low Income  
10 Home Energy Assistance Program applications. The annual request  
11 for proposal shall be fully compliant with federal laws and  
12 regulations and subject to final approval by the Director of the  
13 Division of Housing and Community Resources in the department.  
14 For the purposes of this subsection, “qualified nonprofit  
15 organization” means a New Jersey-based organization that is  
16 incorporated, organized, and operated in such a manner as to  
17 qualify as a nonprofit corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of  
18 the federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3)).
- 19 f.<sup>1</sup> The department may disqualify an agency from serving as an  
20 agency that obtains, reviews, and processes Low Income Home  
21 Energy Assistance Program applications for failure to substantially  
22 comply with the requirements of subsection d. of this section.
- 23 <sup>1</sup>**[f.]** g.<sup>1</sup> The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall  
24 promulgate rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative  
25 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), in order to  
26 effectuate the provisions of this act.
- 27
- 28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.