

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2359

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

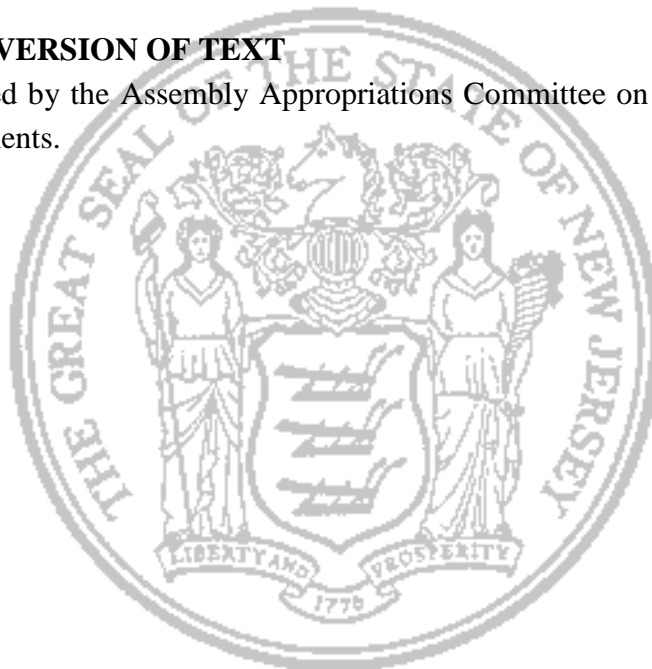
Assemblyman Atkins and Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Provides for streamlining of SNAP application process and establishes SNAP application call center demonstration project; appropriates \$750,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 19, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning applications for the Supplemental Nutrition
2 Assistance Program ¹**【and】** , amending P.L.2021, c.243,¹
3 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes ¹ , and making an
4 appropriation¹ .
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*
8

9 ¹1. The title of P.L.2021, c.243 is amended to read as follows:
10 AN ACT concerning **【the】** participation **【of senior citizens】** in the
11 New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and
12 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.¹
13 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, Title)
14

15 ¹2. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.243 (C.44:10-81.3) is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services, to the maximum
18 extent permissible under federal law, shall review and streamline
19 the SNAP application process **【for senior citizens】**, as provided in
20 this section. The goal of the streamlining process shall be to
21 **【ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches**
22 **or exceeds New Jersey's overall SNAP participation rates】**
23 maximize the enrollment of eligible SNAP participants in New
24 Jersey by increasing the accessibility of the SNAP application.

25 b. In streamlining the SNAP application process **【for seniors】**,
26 as required by this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum**【:**

27 (1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application
28 form for use by seniors;

29 (2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's
30 various social services programs and platforms; and

31 (3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate,
32 the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the
33 Medicaid program and SNAP**】** , update the online application
34 system to ensure the system employs current technology and is user
35 friendly, with features that include, but are not limited to, easy
36 account creation, easy user access, and easy tracking of an
37 applicant's application status.

38 c. The Department of Human Services, working in consultation
39 and cooperation with **【relevant senior citizen】** appropriate advocacy
40 organizations, shall engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to
41 ensure that **【all eligible seniors】** New Jersey residents are made
42 aware of their ability to apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through
43 a streamlined and expedited process. At a minimum, the
44 department shall provide outreach at all health care facilities, social

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:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

1 service agencies that serve seniors in the State, and other
 2 organizations focused on food assistance, and shall use all available
 3 media, including print, radio, television, and the Internet, to inform
 4 residents **【on】** of the availability of the streamlined SNAP
 5 application process established pursuant to this section.

6 d. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the
 7 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of
 8 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
 9 the provisions of this section.

10 e. As used in this section:

11 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

12 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

13 **【**"Medicaid program" means the State Medicaid program,
 14 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

15 "Senior citizen" or "senior" means a person who is 60 years of
 16 age or older. **】**

17 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
 18 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and
 19 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).¹
 20 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, s.1)

21

22 ¹**【1.】** 3. (New section)¹ a. ¹**【**The commissioner, to the
 23 maximum extent permissible under federal law, shall review and
 24 streamline the SNAP application process, as provided in this
 25 section. The goal of the streamlining shall be to maximize the
 26 enrollment of eligible SNAP participants in this State by increasing
 27 the accessibility of the SNAP application.

28 b. In streamlining the SNAP application process, as required by
 29 this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum, update the
 30 online application system to ensure the system employs current
 31 technology and is user-friendly, with features that include, but are
 32 not limited to, easy account creation and access and improved
 33 tracking of an applicant's application status.

34 c. ¹**【**The ¹**【**department **】** Department of Human Services¹ shall
 35 ¹**【**maintain **】** establish a two-year demonstration project, pursuant to
 36 which the department shall establish and maintain¹ a call center
 37 where department employees ¹**【**, or persons under contract with the
 38 department, **】**¹ are available in real-time to assist individuals in:

- 39 (1) navigating the SNAP application process;
 40 (2) checking on the status of an application; and
 41 (3) troubleshooting any issues with the application.

42 ¹b. No later than 18 months after the effective date of P.L. _____,
 43 c. (C. _____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
 44 commissioner shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor
 45 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
 46 Legislature, concerning the commissioner's findings concerning the
 47 effectiveness of the call center established pursuant to subsection a.

1 of this section and the commissioner’s recommendations as to
 2 whether the call center should be reauthorized pursuant to
 3 subsection c. of this section, as well as recommendations for any
 4 changes to the nature, duties, or operation of the call center upon
 5 reauthorization.

6 c. The call center established pursuant to subsection a. of this
 7 section shall expire two years after the effective date of this act, but
 8 may be reauthorized by the adoption of legislation reauthorizing the
 9 call center, with or without changes to the nature, duties, or
 10 operation of the call center.¹

11 d. The commissioner shall apply to the Food and Nutrition
 12 Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any
 13 necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of this
 14 section.

15 e. As used in this section:

16 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Human Services.

17 “Department” means the Department of Human Services ¹“”¹.

18 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
 19 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and
 20 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

21
 22 ¹2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
 23 regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
 24 P.L.1968, c.140 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
 25 effectuate the provisions of this act.¹

26
 27 ¹4. Section 2 of P.L.2021, c.243 is amended to read as follows:

28 2. The Commissioner of Human Services **shall** may adopt
 29 rules and regulations **],** pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure
 30 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.),**]** as may be necessary to
 31 implement the provisions of this act and P.L. , c. (pending
 32 before the Legislature as this bill), which rules and regulations shall
 33 be effective immediately upon filing with the Office of
 34 Administrative Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may,
 35 thereafter, be amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with
 36 the provisions of the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968,
 37 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).¹

38 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, s.2)

39
 40 ¹5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
 41 Department of Human Services the sum of \$750,000 for the purpose
 42 of implementing the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
 43 before the Legislature as this bill).¹

44
 45 ¹3. 6.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.