

[Second 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)**

**Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

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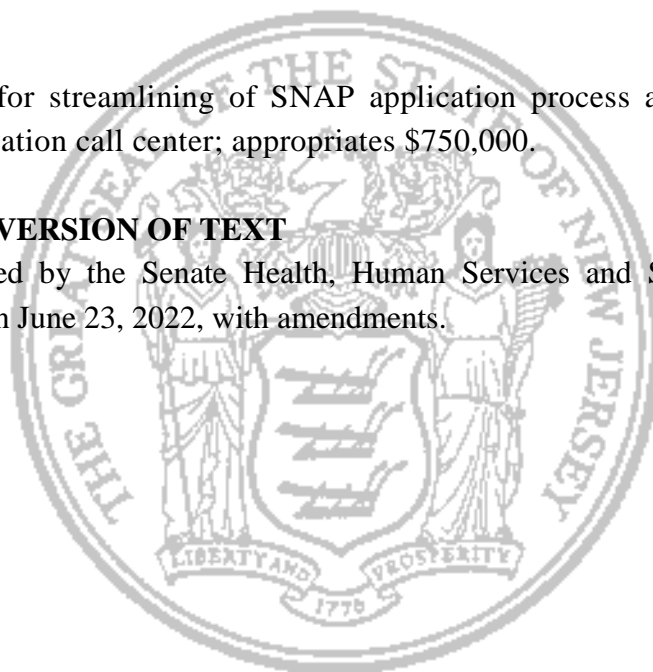
**Assemblyman Atkins, Assemblywoman McKnight and Senator Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on June 23, 2022, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning applications for the Supplemental Nutrition  
 2 Assistance Program <sup>1</sup>**[and]** , amending <sup>2</sup>the title and body of<sup>2</sup>  
 3 P.L.2021, c.243,<sup>1</sup> supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes  
 4 <sup>1</sup>, and making an appropriation<sup>1</sup> .

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

8  
 9 <sup>1</sup>1. 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.<sup>1</sup>  
 13 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, Title)

14  
 15 <sup>1</sup>2. 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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted June 23, 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.).<sup>1</sup>  
 20 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, s.1)

21

22 <sup>1</sup>**【1.】** 3. (New section)<sup>1</sup> a. <sup>1</sup>**【**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.<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>**【**department**】** Department of Human Services<sup>1</sup> shall  
 35 <sup>1</sup>**【**maintain**】** establish <sup>2</sup>**【**a two-year demonstration project, pursuant  
 36 to which the department shall establish and maintain<sup>1</sup><sup>2</sup>**】** a call  
 37 center where department employees <sup>1</sup>**【**, or persons under contract  
 38 with the department,**】**<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>, or persons under contract with the  
 39 department<sup>2</sup> are available in real-time to assist individuals in:

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

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

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

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

12 d.<sup>2</sup> The commissioner shall apply to the Food and Nutrition  
 13 Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any  
 14 necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of this  
 15 section.

16 <sup>2</sup>[e.] c.<sup>2</sup> As used in this section:

17 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

18 "Department" means the Department of Human Services <sup>1</sup>[""].<sup>1</sup>

19 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
 20 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and  
 21 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).  
 22

23 <sup>1</sup>[2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
 24 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
 25 P.L.1968, c.140 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to  
 26 effectuate the provisions of this act.]<sup>1</sup>  
 27

28 <sup>1</sup>4. Section 2 of P.L.2021, c.243 is amended to read as follows:

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

40 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, s.2)  
 41

42 <sup>1</sup>5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
 43 Department of Human Services the sum of \$750,000 for the purpose  
 44 of implementing the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
 45 before the Legislature as this bill).<sup>1</sup>  
 46

47 <sup>1</sup>**[3.] 6.**<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.