

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2360

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

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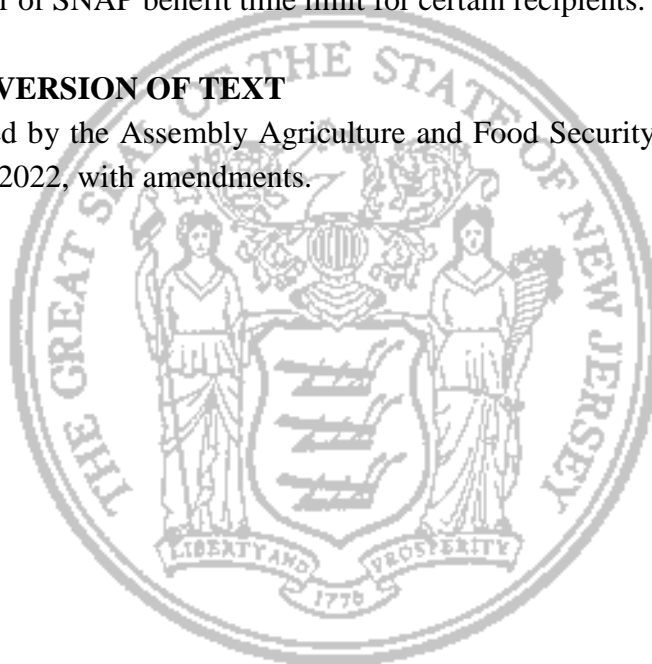
Assemblywomen McKnight, Quijano, Assemblymen Atkins and Wimberly

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates requirement that participation in NJ SNAP Employment and Training Program is mandatory for certain recipients and directs DHS to seek federal waiver of SNAP benefit time limit for certain recipients.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee on February 14, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/19/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
2 Assistance Program, and amending and supplementing various
3 parts of statutory law.

4

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

7

8 1. (New ¹**【Section】** section¹) a. The NJ SNAP ETP shall be a
9 voluntary program, and the Division of Family Development in the
10 Department of Human Services or a county welfare agency shall not
11 require participation in a NJ SNAP ETP activity or in a New Jersey
12 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and
13 Training Provider 50/50 Match Project, as established under
14 P.L.2013, c.45 ¹**【(C.44:10-105 et seq.)】** (C.44:10-95 et seq.)¹, in
15 order to be deemed eligible for SNAP benefits.

16 b. The division and each county welfare agency shall ensure
17 that all recipients of SNAP benefits are provided information
18 regarding, and the opportunity to participate in, employment and
19 training opportunities consistent with federal SNAP ETP
20 reimbursement requirements.

21 c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the
22 authority of the division or a county welfare agency to impose
23 penalties for noncompliance with federal SNAP work requirements.

24 d. The division shall submit, in a timely manner, any necessary
25 revisions to the State Employment and Training Plan to the Food
26 and Nutrition Service in the United States Department of
27 Agriculture, as required pursuant to federal regulations, in order to
28 effectuate the provisions of this section.

29 e. As used in this section:

30 “NJ SNAP ETP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
31 Assistance Program Employment and Training Program that assists
32 SNAP recipients with acquiring the skills, training, work, or
33 experience necessary to obtain regular employment, as established
34 under the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
35 and as described in the most recent State Employment and Training
36 Plan submitted to the Food and Nutrition Service in the United
37 States Department of Agriculture.

38 “New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
39 Employment and Training Provider 50/50 Match Project” means the
40 project established pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.).

41 “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” or “SNAP” means
42 the program established pursuant to the federal “Food and Nutrition
43 Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

44 “SNAP ETP” means the federal Supplemental Nutrition
45 Assistance Program Employment and Training Program

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 AAN committee amendments adopted February 14, 2022.

1 administered by the Food and Nutrition Service in the United States
2 Department of Agriculture and established pursuant to the federal
3 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246
4 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.) and any regulations adopted pursuant
5 thereto.

6
7 2. Section 2 of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-96) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 2. As used in P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.):

10 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

11 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

12 "Eligible participant" means a SNAP recipient who qualifies for
13 participation in NJ SNAP ETP [as a voluntary SNAP ETP participant
14 or as a mandatory SNAP ETP participant].

15 **["Mandatory SNAP ETP participant" means a participant in NJ**
16 **SNAP ETP who, as a condition of receiving SNAP benefits: is**
17 **required to register for work; is required to fulfill SNAP employment**
18 **and training requirements; and has not been exempted from placement**
19 **in an NJ SNAP ETP component.]**

20 "New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
21 Employment and Training Provider 50/50 Match Project" or "project"
22 means the project established pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-
23 95 et seq.).

24 "NJ SNAP ETP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
25 Assistance Program Employment and Training Program that assists
26 SNAP recipients with acquiring the skills, training, work, or
27 experience necessary to obtain regular employment, as established
28 under the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and
29 as described in the most recent State Employment and Training Plan
30 submitted to the Food and Nutrition Service in the United States
31 Department of Agriculture.

32 "Non-federal resources" means any of the following resources,
33 provided that the resources are not from a federal source or used as a
34 match for other federal funding purposes:

35 (1) cash donations from private firms, charitable foundations, or
36 non-profit organizations received by partnering providers;

37 (2) local tax levy funds received by partnering providers;

38 (3) certain eligible in-kind contributions received by partnering
39 providers that are public entities, including property or services which
40 support the provider's NJ SNAP ETP activities and which are
41 contributed by non-federal public entities without charge to the
42 partnering provider; or

43 (4) any other non-federal resources that are currently allowed by
44 the federal government.

45 "Partnering provider" means a qualifying agency selected to
46 participate in the project.

1 "Project participant" means an eligible participant who elects to
2 participate in the project established pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45
3 (C.44:10-95 et seq.).

4 "Qualifying agency" means a local government, non-profit entity,
5 institution of higher education, foundation, or other eligible
6 community-based organization that qualifies for allowable federal
7 SNAP ETP reimbursements pursuant to the federal "Food and
8 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.) by
9 providing allowable services that help SNAP recipients acquire the
10 skills, training, work, or experience necessary to obtain regular
11 employment. A qualifying agency may also include a consortium of
12 organizations.

13 "Service area" means the geographic area of the State in which a
14 partnering provider provides NJ SNAP ETP services under the project
15 established pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.).

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

19 "SNAP ETP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
20 Program Employment and Training Program administered by the Food
21 and Nutrition Service in the United States Department of Agriculture
22 and established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of
23 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.) and any regulations
24 adopted pursuant thereto.

25 **["Voluntary SNAP ETP participant" means a participant in NJ**
26 **SNAP ETP who: is exempt from the work registration and**
27 **employment and training requirements associated with receiving**
28 **SNAP benefits; or who is not exempt from work registration but who**
29 **has been exempted from SNAP employment and training requirements**
30 **or otherwise exempted from placement in an NJ SNAP ETP**
31 **component.]**

32 "Work First New Jersey TANF benefits" means Temporary
33 Assistance for Needy Families benefits provided under the Work First
34 New Jersey program established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-
35 55 et seq.) in accordance with the federal "Personal Responsibility and
36 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996," Pub.L.104-193 (42
37 U.S.C. s.601 et seq.).
38 (cf: P.L.2019, c.253, s.2)

39
40 3. Section 5 of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-99) is amended to read
41 as follows:

42 5. a. A county welfare agency shall collaborate with all partnering
43 providers whose service areas include the county to: inform all eligible
44 participants, upon determination of their eligibility for SNAP benefits,
45 of all project activities operating within the county; permit all eligible
46 participants to participate in any project activities available within the
47 county; and assist eligible participants with contacting partnering

- 1 providers operating project activities. A county welfare agency may
2 advise an eligible participant as to the applicability and
3 appropriateness of specific activities to the eligible participant's case,
4 but the county welfare agency shall not assign an eligible participant to
5 project activities without the eligible participant's consent.
- 6 b. A partnering provider shall collaborate with all county welfare
7 agencies within the provider's service area to: inform all eligible
8 participants, upon determination of their eligibility for SNAP benefits,
9 of the availability of project services; and assist the county welfare
10 agencies with identifying those eligible participants for whom
11 participation in the partnering provider's NJ SNAP ETP activities
12 would be most applicable and appropriate.
- 13 c. A partnering provider shall serve all eligible participants
14 residing within the provider's service area who elect to participate in
15 the provider's project activities. Except as provided in this section, a
16 partnering provider shall not deny or terminate the participation of any
17 project participant.
- 18 d. **【Mandatory SNAP ETP】** Eligible participants who are
19 required to register for work and are required to fulfill SNAP work
20 requirements may elect**【**, for the purpose of fulfilling their SNAP
21 employment and training requirements,**】** to participate in a partnering
22 provider's project activities. **【The participation of a mandatory SNAP**
23 **ETP participant in a partnering provider's project activities shall**
24 **constitute placement in an NJ SNAP ETP component and shall fulfill**
25 **SNAP employment and training requirements for the duration of the**
26 **mandatory SNAP ETP participant's participation. A county welfare**
27 **agency shall assign a mandatory SNAP ETP participant who does not**
28 **elect to participate in any project activities to another NJ SNAP ETP**
29 **component outside of the project, as available.】**
- 30 e. **【Mandatory SNAP ETP】** Eligible participants who are
31 required to register for work and are required to fulfill SNAP work
32 requirements who elect to participate in project activities but who
33 subsequently do not cooperate with, or participate in, those activities
34 shall not be subject to penalties for noncompliance with SNAP
35 **【employment and training】** work requirements during their
36 participation in the project. Partnering providers shall terminate the
37 project participation of any such non-cooperating or non-participating
38 **【mandatory SNAP ETP participants】** eligible participants and refer
39 the non-cooperating or non-participating **【mandatory SNAP ETP】**
40 participants to the applicable county welfare agency. The applicable
41 county welfare agency **【shall】** may assign, at a participant's request,
42 the non-cooperating or non-participating **【mandatory SNAP ETP】**
43 participant to another NJ SNAP ETP component outside of the project,
44 as available.
- 45 f. Nothing in P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.) shall be
46 construed to limit the authority of the county welfare agencies or the

1 department to impose penalties for noncompliance with SNAP
2 **【employment and training】** work requirements on 【mandatory SNAP
3 ETP】 eligible participants who are required to register for work and
4 are required to fulfill SNAP work requirements 【who: are terminated
5 from participation in project activities due to non-cooperation or non-
6 participation; and subsequently refuse or fail to comply with SNAP
7 employment and training requirements upon placement within another
8 NJ SNAP ETP component outside of the project】.

9 g. A partnering provider may deny or terminate the participation
10 of any project participant who is not appropriately matched to the
11 partnering provider's project activities upon obtaining approval from
12 the applicable county welfare agency.

13 (cf: P.L.2019, c.253, s.5)

14
15 4. Section 6 of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-100) is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 6. a. Each partnering provider shall be required to perform the
18 following programmatic functions and to maintain sufficient capacity
19 to perform these functions effectively:

20 (1) assist project participants with obtaining and retaining
21 employment;

22 (2) provide project participants with appropriate NJ SNAP ETP
23 services and participant reimbursements that fulfill the purposes of NJ
24 SNAP ETP and that qualify for federal SNAP ETP reimbursements.
25 These services and participant reimbursements may include, but are
26 not limited to: job search and placement services; job readiness
27 assistance; education or training that improves basic skills and general
28 employability; specific job skills training or vocational education;
29 work experience that improves the employability of project
30 participants; subsidized employment; workfare; self-employment
31 training; services related to the federal Workforce Investment Act of
32 1998, Pub.L.105-220 (29 U.S.C. s.2801 et seq.); job retention services;
33 or reimbursements for project participant expenses, including
34 dependent care costs, transportation expenses, books or training
35 manuals, fees, uniforms, equipment and tools required for
36 employment, or personal safety items required for program
37 participation;

38 (3) assess and place project participants into appropriate NJ SNAP
39 ETP services, as defined in paragraph (2) of this subsection;

40 (4) provide project participants with support services, including
41 case management, early intervention, career counseling, and referrals
42 to additional programs and services;

43 (5) verify whether potential project participants are receiving
44 SNAP benefits and make referrals, as appropriate, to assist potential
45 project participants with applying for SNAP benefits;

46 (6) collaborate with county welfare agencies to develop processes
47 and materials that: inform eligible participants regarding project

- 1 activities within each county, in accordance with each partnering
2 provider's service area; facilitate eligible participants' communications
3 with partnering providers regarding participation in project activities;
4 and assist eligible participants with rendering decisions regarding their
5 participation in project activities;
- 6 (7) assist project participants with continuing to meet
7 administrative requirements, work requirements, employment and
8 training requirements, and other requirements for maintaining SNAP
9 eligibility;
- 10 (8) coordinate with the department and county welfare agencies on
11 a monthly basis to verify that project participants are receiving SNAP
12 benefits and are not receiving Work First New Jersey TANF benefits;
- 13 (9) coordinate with the county welfare agencies and the
14 department to distinguish **【mandatory SNAP ETP】** eligible
15 participants who are required to register for work and are required to
16 fulfill SNAP work requirements from **【voluntary SNAP ETP】** eligible
17 participants who are exempt from the work registration and work
18 requirements associated with receiving SNAP benefits;
- 19 (10) provide uninterrupted NJ SNAP ETP services and participant
20 reimbursements to **【mandatory SNAP ETP】** eligible participants
21 **【electing to participate in the project who become voluntary SNAP**
22 **ETP participants and to voluntary SNAP ETP participants electing to**
23 **participate in the project who become mandatory SNAP ETP**
24 **participants】** through changes in the participants' SNAP work
25 registration and work requirement status, subject to the provisions for
26 terminating project participation pursuant to section 5 of P.L.2013,
27 c.45 (C.44:10-99);
- 28 (11) maintain program records and report to the department and the
29 Department of Labor and Workforce Development the following
30 monthly information for each claimed NJ SNAP ETP participant:
31 program, participant name, participant Social Security number,
32 services and reimbursements received, and weekly hours;
- 33 (12) prepare and submit to the department invoice and certification
34 letters each quarter for the total non-federal resources and program
35 expenditures qualifying for federal SNAP ETP reimbursements for the
36 quarter;
- 37 (13) monitor project participants and subcontractors and provide
38 detailed reports of participants, activities, and outcomes to the
39 Department of Labor and Workforce Development on a regular basis;
- 40 (14) devote sufficient staff time and expertise to fulfill NJ SNAP
41 ETP administrative and reporting requirements;
- 42 (15) collaborate with the department and the Department of Labor
43 and Workforce Development to ensure that federal SNAP ETP
44 reimbursements received under the program are expended in
45 accordance with all applicable federal laws and regulations; and
- 46 (16) report to the department and the Department of Labor and
47 Workforce Development and county welfare agencies on a monthly

1 basis the identities of any **mandatory SNAP ETP** eligible
2 participants who are required to register for work and are required to
3 fulfill SNAP work requirements and who are not cooperating with, or
4 participating in, assigned services or work**],** as applicable to
5 mandatory SNAP ETP participants who elect to participate in the
6 project**].**

7 b. Each partnering provider shall be required to perform the
8 following financial functions and to maintain sufficient capacity to
9 perform the functions effectively:

10 (1) maintain cash flow necessary to manage the delay from
11 program outlays to SNAP ETP reimbursements;

12 (2) manage federal grants, track expenditures, and ensure that non-
13 federal resources and program expenditures qualify for federal SNAP
14 ETP reimbursements;

15 (3) perform cost allocation using multiple funds;

16 (4) track staff time devoted to NJ SNAP ETP activities under this
17 project; and

18 (5) maintain records for State audits.

19 c. Partnering providers may establish agreements with
20 subcontracting organizations to support their NJ SNAP ETP activities
21 under this project.

22 d. The department shall consider educational activities serving
23 eligible participants at community colleges as qualifying for federal
24 SNAP ETP reimbursements to the greatest extent allowable under
25 federal laws and regulations. In accordance with section 273.5 of title
26 7, Code of Federal Regulations, individuals enrolled at least half-time
27 in an institution of higher education who are assigned to, or placed in,
28 an NJ SNAP ETP educational activity**],** including individuals who
29 voluntarily participate in NJ SNAP ETP activities or who otherwise
30 make self-initiated placements,**]** and who meet all SNAP eligibility
31 requirements shall be determined eligible for SNAP benefits and shall
32 be eligible for participation in the project.

33 (cf: P.L.2019, c.253, s.6)

34
35 5. Section 7 of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-101) is amended to
36 read as follows:

37 7. a. The county welfare agencies, under the oversight of the
38 department, shall assist partnering providers by:

39 (1) collaborating with partnering providers, the department, and
40 the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to conduct
41 outreach to potential project participants and to refer potential project
42 participants to the partnering providers;

43 (2) collaborating with partnering providers to develop processes
44 and materials that inform eligible participants regarding: the
45 availability of project activities within each county, in accordance with
46 each partnering provider's service area; the option for eligible
47 participants to participate in project activities; the applicability and

1 appropriateness of specific activities to the eligible participant's case;
2 and the means by which eligible participants may contact partnering
3 providers regarding project participation;

4 (3) determining potential project participants' SNAP eligibility and
5 providing the results of eligibility determinations to partnering
6 providers;

7 (4) developing and implementing a process to verify that potential
8 project participants are receiving SNAP benefits and not receiving
9 Work First New Jersey TANF benefits and ensuring that this
10 verification process adheres to all applicable federal laws and
11 regulations restricting the unauthorized disclosure of information
12 concerning applicants for, and recipients of, SNAP or TANF benefits;

13 (5) determining each potential project participant's status **【as a**
14 **voluntary SNAP ETP participant or a mandatory SNAP ETP**
15 **participant】** regarding SNAP work registration and employment and
16 training requirements, in coordination with partnering providers;

17 (6) confirming each project participant's SNAP eligibility on a
18 monthly basis; and

19 (7) collaborating with partnering providers to develop criteria and
20 procedures for terminating the participation of eligible participants in a
21 partnering provider's project activities including, but not limited to:
22 eligible participants who are not appropriately matched to a partnering
23 provider's project activities; and any **【mandatory SNAP ETP】** eligible
24 participants who are required to register for work and are required to
25 fulfill SNAP work requirements and who are not cooperating with, or
26 participating in, assigned services or work**【**, as applicable to
27 mandatory SNAP ETP participants who elect to participate in the
28 project**】**.

29 b. The department shall, in consultation with the county welfare
30 agencies and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development:

31 (1) assist partnering providers with understanding the
32 administrative requirements, work requirements, employment and
33 training requirements, and other requirements for project participants
34 to maintain SNAP eligibility;

35 (2) assist partnering providers with understanding the requirements
36 for non-federal resources and program expenditures to generate federal
37 SNAP ETP reimbursements;

38 (3) submit requests for federal SNAP ETP reimbursements and
39 fulfill all reporting and other SNAP ETP administrative
40 responsibilities required by the Food and Nutrition Service in the
41 United States Department of Agriculture;

42 (4) distribute federal SNAP ETP reimbursements received by the
43 State under this project to the partnering providers whose non-federal
44 resources and program expenditures generated the federal
45 reimbursements, in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of
46 P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-102);

1 (5) collect data concerning partnering providers and project
2 participants, activities, and outcomes; and

3 (6) audit partnering providers on a routine basis to ensure fiscal
4 and program integrity.

5 (cf: P.L.2019, c.253, s.7)

6
7 6. Section 8 of P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-102) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 8. a. The department shall submit a revised State Employment
10 and Training Plan to the Food and Nutrition Service in the United
11 States Department of Agriculture, in accordance with section 273.7 (c)
12 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, in order to expand NJ SNAP
13 ETP to include project partnerships with qualifying agencies. The
14 revised State Employment and Training Plan shall define the services
15 to be provided under NJ SNAP ETP, including, but not limited to, the
16 project services provided pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et
17 seq.) and shall ensure that under no circumstances shall a recipient of
18 SNAP benefits be disqualified from SNAP participation solely due to
19 nonparticipation in a SNAP ETP activity. The department shall
20 submit the revised State Employment and Training Plan to the Food
21 and Nutrition Service as soon as practicable but no later than the first
22 day of the seventh month next following the effective date of
23 【P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.)】 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending
24 before the Legislature as this bill).

25 b. The commissioner shall take such additional steps as may be
26 necessary to secure approval from the Food and Nutrition Service in
27 the United States Department of Agriculture for this project and to
28 ensure that the State and partnering providers are in compliance with
29 all applicable provisions of federal and State laws and regulations.

30 c. The department may reserve up to five percent of the federal
31 SNAP ETP reimbursements generated as a direct result of the
32 activities of the partnering providers and received by the State
33 pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.) for operating expenses
34 and staff directly related to the administration, oversight, and
35 evaluation of this project. The remaining federal SNAP ETP
36 reimbursements generated as a direct result of the activities of the
37 partnering providers and received by the State pursuant to P.L.2013,
38 c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.) shall be distributed to the partnering
39 providers whose expenditures generated the federal SNAP ETP
40 reimbursements on a pro-rata basis and in accordance with the
41 performance-based system for distributing federal SNAP ETP
42 reimbursements established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.45
43 (C.44:10-98). Within the request for proposals issued pursuant to
44 P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.), the department shall describe the
45 performance-based system for distributing federal SNAP ETP
46 reimbursements and indicate the net percentage of federal SNAP ETP
47 reimbursements that shall be distributed to partnering providers.

1 d. The department shall apply for any additional federal funds
2 which may be available to implement the provisions of P.L.2013, c.45
3 (C.44:10-95 et seq.), including, but not limited to, any unobligated,
4 unexpended federal SNAP ETP funds originally allocated to other
5 state agencies and available for reallocation pursuant to section 273.7
6 (d) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations.

7 e. The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development may
8 solicit, receive, and accept grants, funds, or anything of value from any
9 public or private entity and receive and accept contributions of money,
10 property, labor, or any other thing of value from any legitimate source
11 to support the project, provided that the commissioner does not have
12 reason to believe that the entity may have a vested interest in the
13 decisions of the commissioner or the department concerning the
14 selection of specific partnering providers.
15 (cf: P.L.2019, c.253, s.8)

16
17 ¹7. Section 1 of P.L.2016, c.11 (C.44:10-105) is amended to read
18 as follows:

19 1. a. Immediately upon the effective date of this act and at least
20 once annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Human Services shall
21 conduct a review of available data on labor and employment in the
22 State produced by the Department of Labor and Workforce
23 Development and the federal Bureau of labor Statistics. The purpose
24 of the review shall be to determine **whether to submit a request** all
25 areas eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for able bodied
26 adults without dependents participating in the Supplemental
27 Nutrition Assistance Program as authorized by 7 C.F.R. 273.24(f) **],**
28 either throughout the State or in any geographic area of the State.
29 The review shall consider each criterion of eligibility for a waiver
30 as well as the availability of opportunities that will fulfill the work
31 requirement described in 7 C.F.R. 273.24(a) **].** Based on the review
32 conducted pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall
33 **[determine whether to]** submit a request for a waiver for the
34 maximum number of areas which are eligible for a waiver.

35 b. The Governor shall support and direct the commissioner to
36 submit a waiver request for all geographic areas which represent the
37 largest number of individuals eligible for a waiver of the able
38 bodied adults without dependents time limits on the receipt of
39 SNAP benefits. This support shall serve to fulfill the requirements
40 described in 7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4)(A).]¹

41
42 ¹7. Section 1 of P.L.2016, c.11 (C.44:10-105) is amended to
43 read as follows:

44 1. a. Immediately upon the effective date of this act and at
45 least once annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Human
46 Services shall conduct a review of available data on labor and
47 employment in the State produced by the Department of Labor and

1 Workforce Development and the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.
2 The purpose of the review shall be to determine **whether to submit**
3 **a request** all areas eligible for a waiver of the benefit time limit for
4 able bodied adults without dependents participating in the
5 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as authorized by 7
6 C.F.R. 273.24(f) **],** either throughout the State or in any geographic
7 area of the State. The review shall consider each criterion of
8 eligibility for a waiver as well as the availability of opportunities
9 that will fulfill the work requirement described in 7 C.F.R.
10 273.24(a)**].** Based on the review conducted pursuant to this section,
11 the commissioner shall **determine whether to** submit a request for
12 a waiver for the maximum number of areas which are eligible for a
13 waiver.

14 b. The Governor shall support and direct the commissioner to
15 submit a waiver request for all geographic areas which represent the
16 largest number of individuals eligible for a waiver of the able
17 bodied adults without dependents time limits on the receipt of
18 SNAP benefits. This support shall serve to fulfill the requirements
19 described in 7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4)(A).
20 (cf: P.L.2016, c.11, s.1)¹

21
22 8. Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall take effect
23 immediately. Section 7 of this act shall take effect on the first day
24 of the fourth month following the date of enactment, but the
25 Commissioner of Human Services shall take such anticipatory
26 administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for
27 the implementation of this act.