

[Second 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)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen McKnight, Quijano, Assemblymen Atkins, Wimberly, Freiman, Assemblywomen Jasey, Lopez and Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates requirement that participation in NJ SNAP Employment and Training Program is mandatory for certain recipients.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

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

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

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
 2 Assistance Program, ²**[and]**² amending ²P.L.2013, c.45 and
 3 P.L.2016, c.11,² and supplementing ²**[various parts of statutory**
 4 **law]** Title 44 of the Revised Statutes² .

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

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

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

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

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

30 e. As used in this section:

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

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

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

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.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

1 "SNAP ETP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition
2 Assistance Program Employment and Training Program
3 administered by the Food and Nutrition Service in the United States
4 Department of Agriculture and established pursuant to the federal
5 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246
6 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.) and any regulations adopted pursuant
7 thereto.

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

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

12 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

13 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

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

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

22 "New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
23 Employment and Training Provider 50/50 Match Project" or "project"
24 means the project established pursuant to P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-
25 95 et seq.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 "Partnering provider" means a qualifying agency selected to
2 participate in the project.

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

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

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

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

21 "SNAP ETP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
22 Program Employment and Training Program administered by the Food
23 and Nutrition Service in the United States Department of Agriculture
24 and established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of
25 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.) and any regulations
26 adopted pursuant thereto.

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

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

40 (cf: P.L.2019, c.253, s.2)

41

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

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

1 participants to participate in any project activities available within the
2 county; and assist eligible participants with contacting partnering
3 providers operating project activities. A county welfare agency may
4 advise an eligible participant as to the applicability and
5 appropriateness of specific activities to the eligible participant's case,
6 but the county welfare agency shall not assign an eligible participant to
7 project activities without the eligible participant's consent.

8 b. A partnering provider shall collaborate with all county welfare
9 agencies within the provider's service area to: inform all eligible
10 participants, upon determination of their eligibility for SNAP benefits,
11 of the availability of project services; and assist the county welfare
12 agencies with identifying those eligible participants for whom
13 participation in the partnering provider's NJ SNAP ETP activities
14 would be most applicable and appropriate.

15 c. A partnering provider shall serve all eligible participants
16 residing within the provider's service area who elect to participate in
17 the provider's project activities. Except as provided in this section, a
18 partnering provider shall not deny or terminate the participation of any
19 project participant.

20 d. **【Mandatory SNAP ETP】** Eligible participants who are
21 required to register for work and are required to fulfill SNAP work
22 requirements may elect**【**, for the purpose of fulfilling their SNAP
23 employment and training requirements,**】** to participate in a partnering
24 provider's project activities. **【The participation of a mandatory SNAP**
25 **ETP participant in a partnering provider's project activities shall**
26 **constitute placement in an NJ SNAP ETP component and shall fulfill**
27 **SNAP employment and training requirements for the duration of the**
28 **mandatory SNAP ETP participant's participation. A county welfare**
29 **agency shall assign a mandatory SNAP ETP participant who does not**
30 **elect to participate in any project activities to another NJ SNAP ETP**
31 **component outside of the project, as available.】**

32 e. **【Mandatory SNAP ETP】** Eligible participants who are
33 required to register for work and are required to fulfill SNAP work
34 requirements who elect to participate in project activities but who
35 subsequently do not cooperate with, or participate in, those activities
36 shall not be subject to penalties for noncompliance with SNAP
37 **【employment and training】** work requirements during their
38 participation in the project. Partnering providers shall terminate the
39 project participation of any such non-cooperating or non-participating
40 **【mandatory SNAP ETP participants】** eligible participants and refer
41 the non-cooperating or non-participating **【mandatory SNAP ETP】**
42 participants to the applicable county welfare agency. The applicable
43 county welfare agency **【shall】** may assign, at a participant's request,
44 the non-cooperating or non-participating **【mandatory SNAP ETP】**
45 participant to another NJ SNAP ETP component outside of the project,
46 as available.

1 f. Nothing in P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-95 et seq.) shall be
2 construed to limit the authority of the county welfare agencies or the
3 department to impose penalties for noncompliance with SNAP
4 **【employment and training】** work requirements on **【mandatory SNAP**
5 **ETP】** eligible participants who are required to register for work and
6 are required to fulfill SNAP work requirements **【who: are terminated**
7 **from participation in project activities due to non-cooperation or non-**
8 **participation; and subsequently refuse or fail to comply with SNAP**
9 **employment and training requirements upon placement within another**
10 **NJ SNAP ETP component outside of the project】.**

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

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

16

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

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

22 (1) assist project participants with obtaining and retaining
23 employment;

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

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

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

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

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

(16) report to the department and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and county welfare agencies on a monthly basis the identities of any **mandatory SNAP ETP** eligible participants who are required to register for work and are required to fulfill SNAP work requirements and who are not cooperating with, or participating in, assigned services or work**],** as applicable to mandatory SNAP ETP participants who elect to participate in the project**].**

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

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

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

(3) perform cost allocation using multiple funds;

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

(5) maintain records for State audits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) collaborating with partnering providers to develop processes and materials that inform eligible participants regarding: the availability of project activities within each county, in accordance with

1 each partnering provider's service area; the option for eligible
2 participants to participate in project activities; the applicability and
3 appropriateness of specific activities to the eligible participant's case;
4 and the means by which eligible participants may contact partnering
5 providers regarding project participation;

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

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

15 (5) determining each potential project participant's status [as a
16 voluntary SNAP ETP participant or a mandatory SNAP ETP
17 participant] regarding SNAP work registration and employment and
18 training requirements, in coordination with partnering providers;

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 (4) distribute federal SNAP ETP reimbursements received by the
45 State under this project to the partnering providers whose non-federal
46 resources and program expenditures generated the federal

1 reimbursements, in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of
2 P.L.2013, c.45 (C.44:10-102);

3 (5) collect data concerning partnering providers and project
4 participants, activities, and outcomes; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 reimbursements and indicate the net percentage of federal SNAP ETP
2 reimbursements that shall be distributed to partnering providers.

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

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

17 (cf: P.L.2019, c.253, s.8)

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

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

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

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

46 1. a. Immediately upon the effective date of this act and at
47 least once annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Human

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

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

22 (cf: P.L.2016, c.11, s.1)¹**]**²

23

24 ²**[8. Sections 1 through 6 of this act]** 7. This act² shall take
25 effect immediately. ²**[Section 7 of this act shall take effect on the**
26 **first day of the fourth month following the date of enactment, but**
27 **the Commissioner of Human Services shall take such anticipatory**
28 **administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for**
29 **the implementation of this act.]**²