

[First Reprint]

## **ASSEMBLY, No. 2363**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

## **220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

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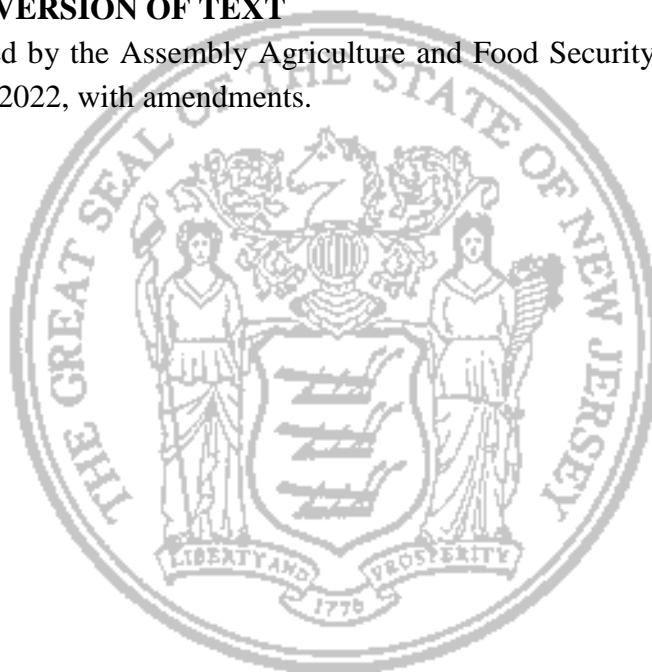
**Assemblyman Atkins**

**SYNOPSIS**

Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

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



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/28/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning county boards of social services and  
 2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
 4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
 5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
 7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Commissioner” means Commissioner of Human Services.

9 “Department” means Department of Human Services.

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

13  
 14 2. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum extent  
 15 permissible under federal law, shall establish a training program for  
 16 each employee of a county board of social services who assists  
 17 individuals with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes. The  
 18 purpose of the training shall be to educate employees on current  
 19 federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and  
 20 standard best practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements.  
 21 The department shall review the training program and curriculum at  
 22 least once every six months and shall require modification of the  
 23 training program from time to time, as need may require, to  
 24 incorporate any changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards  
 25 concerning SNAP.

26 b. Participation in the training program established pursuant to this  
 27 section shall be mandatory for all employees of a county board of  
 28 social services who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and  
 29 recertification processes. <sup>1</sup>**【The chief administrative office of each】**  
 30 Each<sup>1</sup> county board of social services shall be responsible for ensuring  
 31 that all required employees complete the training program, at least  
 32 once in each calendar year.

33  
 34 3. The Department of Human Services shall publish county-  
 35 level case tracking data for SNAP on its Internet website that  
 36 includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons  
 37 for application denial, and average application approval time.

38  
 39 4. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum extent  
 40 permissible under federal law, shall establish a one-year pilot program  
 41 that <sup>1</sup>shall<sup>1</sup> conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP benefits and  
 42 <sup>1</sup>**【provides】** shall provide<sup>1</sup> application assistance to certain  
 43 populations. The purpose of this pilot program shall be to increase  
 44 enrollment <sup>1</sup>**【.】**<sup>1</sup> among certain underserved populations <sup>1</sup>**【.】**<sup>1</sup> of

**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 AAN committee amendments adopted February 14, 2022.

1 eligible participants in SNAP, which underserved populations include,  
2 but are not limited to, college students, immigrants, and older adults.

3 b. The <sup>1</sup>~~["application assistance for older adults;"]~~<sup>1</sup> commissioner  
4 shall select one county board of social services in each of the northern,  
5 central, and southern regions of the State to participate in the pilot  
6 program.

7 c. The pilot program may include, but shall not be limited to, the  
8 following elements:

9 (1) the creation and dissemination of videos to educate older adults  
10 about SNAP and the application process;

11 (2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers,  
12 hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other <sup>1</sup>~~["place"]~~  
13 places<sup>1</sup> where older adults may congregate;

14 (3) the provision of <sup>1</sup>application assistance by<sup>1</sup> telephone <sup>1</sup>for  
15 older adults;<sup>1</sup>

16 (4) the development of a social media campaign for college  
17 students that raises awareness about SNAP;

18 (5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher  
19 education and the higher education community, such as school  
20 administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices, campus  
21 food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness about  
22 SNAP among students and <sup>1</sup>to<sup>1</sup> provide students with the necessary  
23 information to apply for SNAP;

24 (6) the establishment of campus representatives at institutions of  
25 higher learning who can educate students about SNAP and refer  
26 students to a local county board of social services;

27 (7) the promotion of SNAP outreach and application materials in  
28 different languages through organizations and faith-based communities  
29 that serve immigrants; and

30 (8) outreach through social and traditional media, especially non-  
31 English media, to reach immigrant populations.

32 d. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner shall  
33 submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to  
34 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the implementation,  
35 outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall  
36 include the commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the  
37 program's continuation and expansion to additional county boards of  
38 social services in the State.

39  
40 5. The Commissioner of Human Services shall:

41 <sup>1</sup>~~["(a)"]~~ a.<sup>1</sup> apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the  
42 United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or  
43 approvals to implement the provisions of this act; and

44 <sup>1</sup>~~["(b)"]~~ b.<sup>1</sup> adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the  
45 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.140 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.),  
46 as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

47  
48 6. This act shall take effect immediately.