

[Second 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)

Co-Sponsored by:

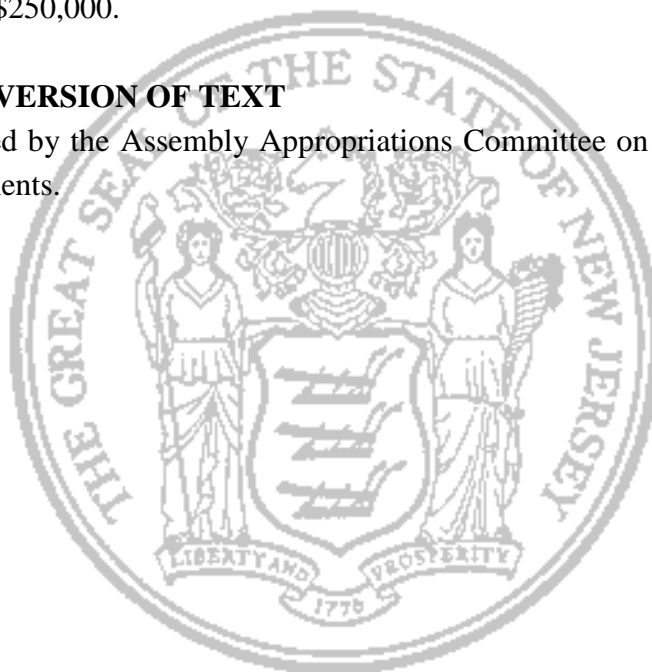
Assemblymen Atkins, Wimberly, Freiman, Assemblywomen Lampitt and McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Concerns SNAP services provided at county boards of social services; appropriates \$250,000.

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 county boards of social services ²**[and]** ²
 2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes ², and making an
 3 appropriation².
 4

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

8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Commissioner” means Commissioner of Human Services.

10 “Department” means Department of Human Services.

11 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
 12 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and
 13 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).
 14

15 2. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum
 16 extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a training
 17 program for ²**[each employee of a]**² county ²**[board]** boards² of
 18 social services ²**[who assists]** that assist² individuals with SNAP
 19 enrollment and recertification processes. The purpose of the
 20 training shall be to educate employees on current federal laws,
 21 regulations, and standards concerning SNAP, and standard best
 22 practices to comply with federal SNAP requirements. The
 23 department shall review the training program and curriculum ²**[at**
 24 **least once every six months]** each year² and ²**[shall require**
 25 **modification of]** may modify² the training program from time to
 26 time, as need may require, to incorporate any changes to the federal
 27 laws, regulations, and standards concerning SNAP.

28 b. Participation in the training program established pursuant to
 29 this section shall be mandatory for all employees of a county board
 30 of social services who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and
 31 recertification processes. ¹**[The chief administrative office of each]**
 32 Each¹ county board of social services shall be responsible for
 33 ensuring that all required employees complete the training program,
 34 at least once in each calendar year.
 35

36 3. The Department of Human Services shall publish county-
 37 level case tracking data for SNAP on its Internet website that
 38 includes, but is not limited to: application approval rates, reasons
 39 for application denial, and average application approval time.
 40

41 ²**[4. a.** The Department of Human Services, to the maximum
 42 extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a one-year pilot
 43 program that ¹shall¹ conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP
 44 benefits and ¹**[provides]** shall provide¹ application assistance to

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 certain populations. The purpose of this pilot program shall be to
2 increase enrollment ¹[.]¹ among certain underserved populations
3 ¹[.]¹ of eligible participants in SNAP, which underserved populations
4 include, but are not limited to, college students, immigrants, and older
5 adults.

6 b. The ¹[application assistance for older adults;]¹ commissioner
7 shall select one county board of social services in each of the northern,
8 central, and southern regions of the State to participate in the pilot
9 program.

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

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

14 (2) grassroots outreach about SNAP through senior centers,
15 hospitals, doctor's offices, houses of worship, and other ¹[place]
16 places¹ where older adults may congregate;

17 (3) the provision of 'application assistance by' telephone ¹for
18 older adults;¹

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

21 (5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher
22 education and the higher education community, such as school
23 administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices, campus
24 food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness about
25 SNAP among students and ¹to¹ provide students with the necessary
26 information to apply for SNAP;

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

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

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

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

42
43 ²[5.] 4. a.² The Commissioner of Human Services shall ²[:

44 ¹[(a)] a.¹² apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the
45 United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers
46 or approvals to implement the provisions of this act ²[: and]² .²

47 ¹[(b)] b.¹ ²The commissioner may² adopt rules and regulations
48 ²[, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.140

1 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.),¹ as may be necessary to effectuate the
2 provisions of this act ², which rules and regulations shall be
3 effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative
4 Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be
5 amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the provisions
6 of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
7 1 et seq.)².

8
9 ²5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
10 Department of Human Services the sum of \$250,000 for the
11 purposes of effectuating the provisions of this act.²

12
13 6. This act shall take effect immediately.