

[Third Reprint]

## **ASSEMBLY, No. 2363**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

## **220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

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**Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

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**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Atkins, Wimberly, Freiman, Assemblywomen Lampitt, McKnight, Senators Cruz-Perez and Turner**

### **SYNOPSIS**

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

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 27, 2022, with amendments.

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

1 AN ACT concerning county boards of social services <sup>2</sup>~~[and]~~ <sup>2</sup>  
 2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes <sup>3</sup>, amending  
 3 P.L.2021, c.93<sup>3 2</sup>, and making an appropriation<sup>2</sup>.  
 4

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

8 1. <sup>3</sup>(New section)<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup>(New section)<sup>3</sup> a. The Department of Human Services, to  
 16 the maximum extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a  
 17 training program for <sup>2</sup>~~[each employee of a]~~<sup>2</sup> county <sup>2</sup>~~[board]~~  
 18 ~~boards~~<sup>2</sup> of social services <sup>2</sup>~~[who assists]~~ that assist<sup>2</sup> individuals  
 19 with SNAP enrollment and recertification processes. The purpose  
 20 of the training shall be to educate employees <sup>3</sup>, including  
 21 supervisory and managerial employees and designated county  
 22 training staff,<sup>3</sup> on current federal laws, regulations, and standards  
 23 concerning SNAP, and standard best practices to comply with  
 24 federal SNAP requirements <sup>3</sup>, with the goal of ensuring employees  
 25 of county boards of social services are at all times in compliance  
 26 with federal laws, regulations, standards, and best practices as they  
 27 pertain to SNAP<sup>3</sup>. The department shall review the training  
 28 program and curriculum <sup>2</sup>~~[at least once every six months]~~ each  
 29 year<sup>2</sup> and <sup>2</sup>~~[shall require modification of]~~ may modify<sup>2</sup> the training  
 30 program from time to time, as need may require, to incorporate any  
 31 changes to the federal laws, regulations, and standards concerning  
 32 SNAP.

33 b. Participation in the training program established pursuant to  
 34 this section shall be mandatory for all employees of a county board  
 35 of social services who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and  
 36 recertification processes <sup>3</sup>, as well as for all supervisory or  
 37 management employees of the county board of social services who  
 38 interview, process, or review SNAP cases and designated training  
 39 staff of the county board of social services<sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup>~~[The chief~~  
 40 ~~administrative office of each]~~ Each<sup>1</sup> county board of social services  
 41 shall be responsible for ensuring that <sup>3</sup>;

42 (1)<sup>3</sup> all required employees complete the training program <sup>3</sup>~~[,]~~<sup>3</sup>  
 43 at least <sup>3</sup>~~[once]~~ twice<sup>3</sup> in each calendar year <sup>3</sup>;

**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.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted May 19, 2022.

<sup>3</sup>Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 27, 2022.

1     (2) all newly-hired employees of the county board of social  
2     services who will assist individuals with SNAP enrollment and  
3     recertification processes, who will interview, process, or review  
4     SNAP cases in a managerial or supervisory role, or who will serve  
5     as designated training staff for the county board of social services  
6     complete the training within one month of hire; and

7     (3) all employees who assist individuals with SNAP enrollment  
8     and recertification processes, who interview, process, or review  
9     SNAP cases in a managerial or supervisory role, or who serve as  
10    designated training staff members, complete the training as a  
11    condition of any professional promotion within the county board of  
12    social services<sup>3</sup> .

13  
14    3. <sup>1</sup>(New section)<sup>3</sup> The Department of Human Services shall  
15    publish county-level case tracking data for SNAP on its Internet  
16    website that includes, but is not limited to: application approval  
17    rates, reasons for application denial, <sup>3</sup>[and]<sup>3</sup> average application  
18    approval <sup>3</sup>[time] times, and the average time between when a case  
19    closes and when it is subsequently reopened<sup>3</sup> .

20  
21    <sup>2</sup>[4. a. The Department of Human Services, to the maximum  
22    extent permissible under federal law, shall establish a one-year pilot  
23    program that <sup>1</sup>shall<sup>1</sup> conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP  
24    benefits and <sup>1</sup>[provides] shall provide<sup>1</sup> application assistance  
25    to certain populations. The purpose of this pilot program shall be to  
26    increase enrollment <sup>1</sup>[,]<sup>1</sup> among certain underserved populations  
27    <sup>1</sup>[,]<sup>1</sup> of eligible participants in SNAP, which underserved populations  
28    include, but are not limited to, college students, immigrants, and older  
29    adults.

30    b. The <sup>1</sup>[application assistance for older adults;]<sup>1</sup> commissioner  
31    shall select one county board of social services in each of the northern,  
32    central, and southern regions of the State to participate in the pilot  
33    program.

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

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

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

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

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

45    (5) the formation of partnerships with institutions of higher  
46    education and the higher education community, such as school  
47    administrators, professors, counselors, student health offices, campus  
48    food pantries, and financial aid officers, to raise awareness about

1 SNAP among students and <sup>1</sup>to<sup>1</sup> provide students with the necessary  
2 information to apply for SNAP;

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

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

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

11 d. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner shall  
12 submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to  
13 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the implementation,  
14 outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program. The report shall  
15 include the commissioner's recommendation on the advisability of the  
16 program's continuation and expansion to additional county boards of  
17 social services in the State.】<sup>2</sup>

18

19 <sup>3</sup>4. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.93 (C.44:10-81.2) is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 1. a. Consistent with federal law, the Commissioner of Human  
22 Services shall permit applicants for 【the Supplemental Nutrition  
23 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the "Food and  
24 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L. 110-246 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.)】  
25 SNAP, to apply by phone, electronic device, or kiosk, as well as for  
26 employees of county welfare agencies and county boards of social  
27 services to conduct SNAP interviews by telephone, electronic  
28 device, or kiosk. The commissioner shall establish requirements to  
29 ensure the security and privacy of applications submitted, and  
30 interviews conducted, by telephone or using an electronic device or  
31 kiosk pursuant to this section.

32 b. The commissioner shall:

33 (1) consult with county welfare agencies and county boards of  
34 social services to create an electronic record information processing  
35 system to process 【telephonic】 applications submitted for 【the  
36 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program】 SNAP using  
37 telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks and for interviews  
38 conducted using telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks pursuant  
39 to subsection a. of this section, and ensure 【the system is】 such  
40 systems are in compliance with federal standards; and

41 (2) apply and receive approval for such waivers as may be  
42 necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

43 c. County welfare agencies and county boards of social  
44 services shall designate an employee of the agency or board as the  
45 agency's or board's county social service liaison. County social  
46 service liaisons shall be responsible for consulting with institutions  
47 of higher education and the higher education community to assist  
48 with any technical assistance questions from SNAP applicants and

1 from the county welfare agency or county board of social services  
 2 arising from the use of telephones, electronic devices, and kiosks in  
 3 connection with SNAP applications and SNAP interviews.

4 d. As used in this section:

5 “Electronic device” means a desktop or laptop computer, mobile  
 6 phone, tablet, or any other Internet-connected device that is capable  
 7 of electronically receiving and transmitting the information  
 8 necessary to process an application for benefits under the  
 9 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

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.).<sup>3</sup>  
 13 (cf: P.L.2021, c.93, s.1)

14  
 15 <sup>2</sup>[5.] <sup>3</sup>[4.] 5. (New section)<sup>3</sup> a.<sup>2</sup> The Commissioner of Human  
 16 Services shall <sup>2</sup>[:

17 <sup>1</sup>[(a)] a.<sup>1</sup><sup>2</sup> apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the  
 18 United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers  
 19 or approvals to implement the provisions of this act <sup>2</sup>[: and] <sup>2</sup>.

20 <sup>1</sup>[(b)] b.<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>The commissioner may<sup>2</sup> adopt rules and regulations  
 21 <sup>2</sup>[, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.140  
 22 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.),]<sup>2</sup> as may be necessary to effectuate the  
 23 provisions of this act <sup>2</sup>, which rules and regulations shall be  
 24 effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative  
 25 Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be  
 26 amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the provisions  
 27 of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-  
 28 1 et seq.)<sup>2</sup>.

29 <sup>3</sup>c. The commissioner shall annually request funding in an  
 30 amount as shall be necessary and appropriate to support additional  
 31 funding for county call centers to address technical assistance  
 32 questions from SNAP applicants, county welfare agencies, and  
 33 county boards of social services arising from the use of telephones,  
 34 electronic devices, and kiosks in connection with SNAP  
 35 applications and SNAP interviews pursuant to section 2 of P.L. ,  
 36 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).<sup>3</sup>

37  
 38 <sup>3</sup>[<sup>2</sup>5.] 6.<sup>3</sup> There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
 39 Department of Human Services the sum of \$250,000 for the  
 40 purposes of effectuating the provisions of this act.<sup>2</sup>

41  
 42 <sup>3</sup>[6.] 7.<sup>3</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.