

ASSEMBLY, No. 2366

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Quijano, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Wimberly, Freiman, Assemblywomen Lampitt, Jasey, Lopez and Jimenez

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to issue monthly supplemental SNAP benefit of \$15 to senior citizens and disabled enrollees; appropriates \$20.5 million to DHS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning supplemental benefits under the Supplemental
2 Nutrition Assistance Program, supplementing Title 44 of the
3 Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. a. The Division of Family Development in the Department
9 of Human Services shall issue a monthly supplemental benefit of
10 \$15 to each eligible enrollee of SNAP, provided that the enrollee is
11 a senior citizen or an individual with a disability. The division shall
12 distribute the monthly supplemental benefit via the enrollee's
13 existing SNAP electronic benefits card, on the same issuance date
14 as the enrollee's standard SNAP benefits. An enrollee shall use the
15 monthly supplemental benefit issued pursuant to this section in the
16 same manner as, and in compliance with, all State and federal laws
17 and regulations that apply to the use of the enrollee's standard
18 SNAP benefits.

19 b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the
20 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of
21 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
22 the provisions of this act.

23 c. As used in this act:

24 "Individual with a disability" means an individual who meets one
25 of the following requirements by the last day of the month in which
26 the SNAP supplemental benefit is being issued: (1) receives federal
27 disability or blindness payments under the federal "Social Security
28 Act," 42 U.S.C. s.301 et seq.; (2) receives State disability or blindness
29 payments under the Supplemental Security Income program, P.L.1973,
30 c.256 (C.44:7-85 et seq.); (3) receives a disability retirement benefit
31 from a governmental agency because of a permanent disability; (4)
32 receives an annuity under the federal "Railroad Retirement Act of
33 1974," 45 U.S.C. s.231 et seq. and is eligible for Medicare or is
34 considered disabled under the Supplemental Security Income program;
35 (5) is a veteran who is totally disabled, permanently homebound, or in
36 need of regular aid and attendance; or (6) is the surviving spouse or
37 child of a veteran who is receiving federal veterans' benefits and is
38 considered permanently disabled.

39 "Senior citizen" means an individual who is 60 years of age or
40 older by the last day of the month in which the SNAP supplemental
41 benefit is being issued.

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

45
46 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
47 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"

1 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
2 implement the provisions of this act.

3
4 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division
5 of Family Development in the Department of Human Services
6 \$20,500,000 to effectuate the provisions of this act.

7
8 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
9 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of
10 Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in
11 advance thereof as may be necessary for the implementation of this
12 act.

13
14
15 STATEMENT

16
17 This bill directs the Division of Family Development (DFD) in
18 the Department of Human Services (DHS) to issue a monthly
19 supplemental benefit of \$15 to each eligible enrollee of the
20 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), provided that
21 the enrollee is a senior citizen or an individual with a disability.
22 SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a nutrition
23 assistance program that serves as a safety net for low-income
24 households.

25 The federal government provides 100 percent of the funds for the
26 standard SNAP benefit for all enrollees. According to existing
27 eligibility standards, the monthly benefit for senior citizens and
28 individuals with disabilities can be as low as \$16. Research has
29 indicated that disabling or chronic health conditions may be made
30 worse by insufficient food or a low-quality diet. A monthly
31 supplemental SNAP benefit for senior citizens and individuals with
32 disabilities would help meet the nutritional needs, and contribute to
33 the overall health and stability, of these vulnerable populations.

34 Specifically, under the bill, senior citizens and individuals with
35 disabilities, who are SNAP enrollees, would receive a \$15 monthly
36 supplemental SNAP benefit, provided with 100 percent State funds.
37 To accomplish this provision, the bill also appropriates \$20.5
38 million from the General Fund to the DHS. The bill defines senior
39 citizen and individual with a disability to conform with the
40 definition of these terms in federal regulations regarding SNAP.
41 For example, under the bill, "senior citizen" means an individual
42 who is 60 years of age or older by the last day of the month in
43 which the SNAP supplemental benefit is being issued. "Individual
44 with a disability" means an individual who receives, by the last day
45 of the month in which the SNAP supplemental benefit is being
46 issued, disability assistance under the federal "Social Security Act,"
47 42 U.S.C. s.301 et seq.; the Supplemental Security Income program,
48 P.L.1973, c.256 (C.44:7-85 et seq.); a governmental agency because of

1 a permanent disability; or the federal "Railroad Retirement Act of
2 1974," 45 U.S.C. s.231 et seq., under certain circumstances. The
3 following are also included under this definition: a veteran who is
4 totally disabled, permanently homebound, or in need of regular aid and
5 attendance; or the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who is
6 receiving federal veterans' benefits and is considered permanently
7 disabled.

8 The bill directs the DFD to distribute the monthly supplemental
9 benefit via the enrollee's existing SNAP electronic benefits card, on
10 the same issuance date as the enrollee's standard SNAP benefits.
11 Furthermore, an enrollee is required to use the monthly
12 supplemental benefit in the same manner as, and in compliance
13 with, all State and federal laws and regulations that apply to the use
14 of the enrollee's standard SNAP benefits.

15 The bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to
16 the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department
17 of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
18 the provisions of the bill. The bill is to take effect on the first day
19 of the fourth month next following the date of enactment, but the
20 commissioner may take such advance anticipatory administrative
21 action as may be necessary for the implementation of the bill.