

ASSEMBLY, No. 5662

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes State Work First New Jersey Menstrual Hygiene Benefit Program and State Work First New Jersey Diaper Benefit Program; appropriates \$2.5 million to DHS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning a monthly State benefit for menstrual hygiene
2 products and diaper products under the Work First New Jersey
3 Program, supplementing P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55), and
4 making an appropriation.

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

8
9 1. a. There is established in the Division of Family
10 Development in the Department of Human Services the State WFNJ
11 Menstrual Hygiene Benefit Program. Under the program, the
12 division shall distribute to each menstruator participating in WFNJ
13 who is 18 to 50 years of age, a monthly State benefit of \$14. The
14 division shall distribute the monthly State benefit via the
15 participant's existing WFNJ electronic benefits card, on the same
16 issuance date as the participant's standard WFNJ benefits. A
17 participant shall be required to use any monthly State benefit issued
18 pursuant to this section for menstrual hygiene products. Any
19 unspent funds from a participant's monthly State WFNJ Menstrual
20 Hygiene Benefit shall be carried over to the next month, for use by
21 the participant for the same purpose.

22 b. As used in this section,

23 "Menstrual hygiene products" means tampons, menstrual cups,
24 or sanitary napkins used to collect or absorb menstrual fluids.

25 "WFNJ" means the Work First New Jersey Program, established
26 pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.) in accordance with
27 authorization received under Title IV of the federal "Personal
28 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,"
29 Pub.L.104-193 (8 U.S.C. s.1601 et seq.), and includes both the
30 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and the General
31 Assistance program.

32

33 2. a. There is established in the Division of Family
34 Development in the Department of Human Services the State WFNJ
35 Diaper Benefit Program. Under the program, the division shall
36 distribute to each person participating in WFNJ a monthly State
37 benefit of \$30 for each dependent of the person who is under 36
38 months of age. The division shall distribute the monthly State
39 benefit via the participant's existing WFNJ electronic benefits card,
40 on the same issuance date as the participant's standard WFNJ
41 benefits. A participant shall be required to use any monthly State
42 benefit issued pursuant to this section for diaper products. Any
43 unspent funds from a participant's monthly State WFNJ Diaper
44 Benefit shall be carried over to the next month, for use by the
45 participant for the same purpose.

46 b. As used in this section, "WFNJ" means the Work First New
47 Jersey program, established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55
48 et seq.) in accordance with authorization received under Title IV of

1 the federal "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
2 Reconciliation Act of 1996," Pub.L.104-193 (8 U.S.C. s.1601 et
3 seq.).

4

5 3. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
6 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
7 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
8 implement the provisions of this act.

9

10 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division of
11 Family Development in the Department of Human Services
12 \$2,500,000 to effectuate the provisions of this act.

13

14 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
15 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of
16 Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in
17 advance thereof as may be necessary for the implementation of this
18 act.

19

20

21

STATEMENT

22

23 This bill establishes the State Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)
24 Menstrual Hygiene Benefit Program and the State WFNJ Diaper
25 Benefit Program in the Division of Family Development in the
26 Department of Human Services, and makes a \$2.5 million
27 appropriation to support the programs. WFNJ is the State's cash
28 assistance program for low-income residents.

29 Under the State WFNJ Menstrual Hygiene Program, the division
30 is to distribute to each person who menstruates participating in
31 WFNJ, ages 18 to 50 years, a monthly State benefit of \$14. Under
32 the State WFNJ Diaper Benefit Program, the division is to distribute
33 to each person participating in WFNJ a monthly State benefit of \$30
34 for each dependent of the person who is under 36 months of age.

35 The division is required to distribute the monthly State benefit
36 under both programs via the participant's WFNJ electronic benefits
37 card, on the same issuance date as the participant's standard WFNJ
38 benefits. A participant is required to use any monthly State benefit
39 issued pursuant to this bill for the purposes of the program. Any
40 unspent funds from a participant's monthly menstrual hygiene
41 benefit or diaper benefit is to be carried over to the next month, for
42 use by the participant for the same purpose. The bill defines
43 "menstrual hygiene products" to mean tampons, menstrual cups, or
44 sanitary napkins used to collect or absorb menstrual fluids.