

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2033

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

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District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

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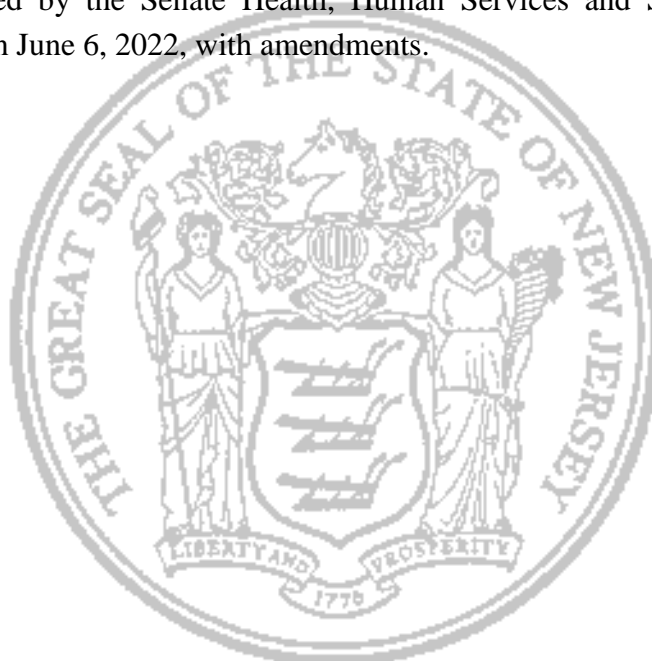
Senator Cruz-Perez

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on June 6, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/27/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning county boards of social services ¹**[and]** ¹
2 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes ¹, and making an
3 appropriation¹ .
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 ¹**[each employee of a]**¹ county ¹**[board]** boards¹ of
18 social services ¹**[who assists]** that assist¹ 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 ¹**[at**
24 **least once every six months]** each year¹ and ¹**[shall require**
25 **modification of]** may modify¹ 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 ¹**[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 conduct focused outreach efforts about SNAP benefits
44 and provides application assistance to certain populations. The

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted June 6, 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

16 (3) the provision of telephone

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

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

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

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

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

33 d. At the conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner
34 shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature
35 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the
36 implementation, outcomes, and effectiveness of the pilot program.
37 The report shall include the commissioner's recommendation on the
38 advisability of the program's continuation and expansion to
39 additional county boards of social services in the State. **】**¹

40

41 ¹**【5.】** 4. a.¹ The Commissioner of Human Services shall
42 ¹**【: (a)】**¹ apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United
43 States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or
44 approvals to implement the provisions of this act ¹**【; and】** ¹

45 ¹**【(b)】** b. The commissioner may¹ adopt rules and regulations
46 ¹**【, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.140**
47 **(C.52:14B-1 et seq.),】**¹ as may be necessary to effectuate the

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

7

8 ¹5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
9 Department of Human Services the sum of \$250,000 for the
10 purposes of effectuating the provisions of this act.¹

11

12 6. This act shall take effect immediately.