

SENATE, No. 2034

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Provides for streamlining of SNAP application process and establishes SNAP application call center.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/13/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning applications for the Supplemental Nutrition
2 Assistance Program and supplementing Title 44 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The commissioner, to the maximum extent permissible
9 under federal law, shall review and streamline the SNAP
10 application process, as provided in this section. The goal of the
11 streamlining shall be to maximize the enrollment of eligible SNAP
12 participants in this State by increasing the accessibility of the SNAP
13 application.

14 b. In streamlining the SNAP application process, as required by
15 this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum, update the
16 online application system to ensure the system employs current
17 technology and is user-friendly, with features that include, but are
18 not limited to, easy account creation and access and improved
19 tracking of an applicant's application status.

20 c. The department shall maintain a call center where
21 department employees, or persons under contract with the
22 department, are available in real-time to assist individuals in:

- 23 (1) navigating the SNAP application process;
24 (2) checking on the status of an application; and
25 (3) troubleshooting any issues with the application.

26 d. The commissioner shall apply to the Food and Nutrition
27 Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any
28 necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of this
29 section.

30 e. As used in this section:

31 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

32 "Department" means the Department of Human Services"

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

36
37 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
38 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
39 P.L.1968, c.140 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
40 effectuate the provisions of this act.

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42 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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47 This bill would require the Commissioner of Human Services to
48 review and streamline the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition

1 Assistance Program (SNAP) application process, to the maximum
2 extent permissible under federal law. The goal of the streamlining
3 is to maximize the enrollment of eligible SNAP participants in this
4 State by increasing the accessibility of the SNAP application.

5 In streamlining the SNAP application process, the commissioner
6 would be required to, at a minimum, update the online application
7 system to ensure the system employs current technology and is
8 user-friendly, with features that include, but are not limited to, easy
9 account creation, and access and improved tracking of an
10 applicant's application status.

11 The bill would also require the Department of Human Services to
12 maintain a call center where department employees, or persons
13 under contract with the department, are available in real-time to
14 assist individuals in navigating the SNAP application process,
15 checking on the status of an application, and troubleshooting any
16 issues with the application. Finally, the bill would require the
17 Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food and
18 Nutrition Service within the United States Department of
19 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
20 the provisions of the bill.