

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2034**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

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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:**

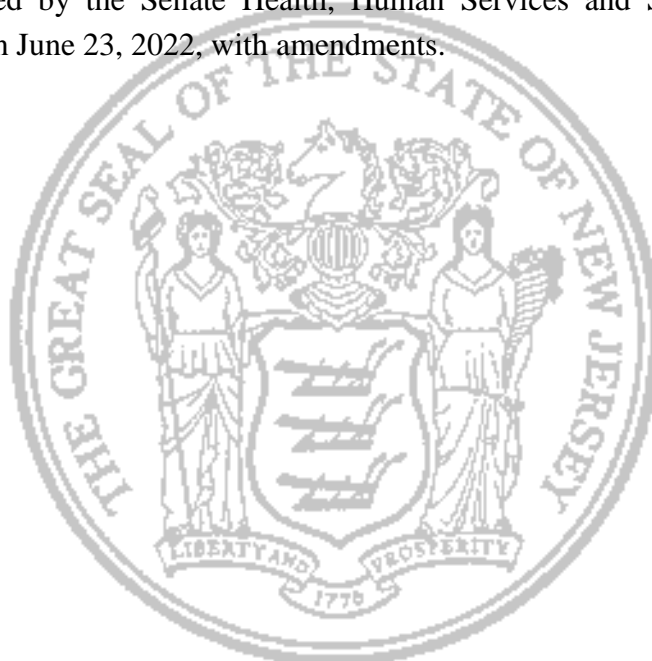
**Senator Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides for streamlining of SNAP application process and establishes SNAP application call center; appropriates \$750,000.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on June 23, 2022, with amendments.



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

1 AN ACT concerning applications for the Supplemental Nutrition  
2 Assistance Program <sup>1</sup>**[and]** , amending the title and body of  
3 P.L.2021, c.243,<sup>1</sup> supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes  
4 <sup>1</sup>, and making an appropriation<sup>1</sup> .  
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7 *of New Jersey:*  
8

9 <sup>1</sup>1. The title of P.L.2021, c.243 is amended to read as follows:  
10 AN ACT concerning **[the]** participation **[of senior citizens]** in the  
11 New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and  
12 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.<sup>1</sup>  
13 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, Title)  
14

15 <sup>1</sup>2. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.243 (C.44:10-81.3) is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services, to the maximum  
18 extent permissible under federal law, shall review and streamline  
19 the SNAP application process **[for senior citizens]**, as provided in  
20 this section. The goal of the streamlining process shall be to  
21 **[ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches**  
22 **or exceeds New Jersey's overall SNAP participation rates]**  
23 maximize the enrollment of eligible SNAP participants in New  
24 Jersey by increasing the accessibility of the SNAP application.

25 b. In streamlining the SNAP application process **[for seniors]**,  
26 as required by this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum**[**:

27 (1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application  
28 form for use by seniors;

29 (2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's  
30 various social services programs and platforms; and

31 (3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate,  
32 the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the  
33 Medicaid program and SNAP**]** , update the online application  
34 system to ensure the system employs current technology and is user  
35 friendly, with features that include, but are not limited to, easy  
36 account creation, easy user access, and easy tracking of an  
37 applicant's application status.

38 c. The Department of Human Services, working in consultation  
39 and cooperation with **[relevant senior citizen]** appropriate advocacy  
40 organizations, shall engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to  
41 ensure that **[all eligible seniors]** New Jersey residents are made  
42 aware of their ability to apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through  
43 a streamlined and expedited process. At a minimum, the department

**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>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted June 23, 2022.

1 shall provide outreach at all health care facilities, social service  
2 agencies that serve seniors in the State, and other organizations  
3 focused on food assistance, and shall use all available media,  
4 including print, radio, television, and the Internet, to inform  
5 residents **[on]** of the availability of the streamlined SNAP  
6 application process established pursuant to this section.

7 d. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the  
8 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of  
9 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
10 the provisions of this section.

11 e. As used in this section:

12 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

13 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

14 **["Medicaid program"** means the State Medicaid program,  
15 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

16 "Senior citizen" or "senior" means a person who is 60 years of  
17 age or older.]

18 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
19 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and  
20 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).<sup>1</sup>  
21 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, s.1)

22

23 <sup>1</sup>**[1.]** 3. (New section)<sup>1</sup> a. <sup>1</sup>**[The commissioner, to the**  
24 maximum extent permissible under federal law, shall review and  
25 streamline the SNAP application process, as provided in this  
26 section. The goal of the streamlining shall be to maximize the  
27 enrollment of eligible SNAP participants in this State by increasing  
28 the accessibility of the SNAP application.

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

35 c.]<sup>1</sup> The <sup>1</sup>**[department]** Department of Human Services<sup>1</sup> shall  
36 <sup>1</sup>**[maintain]** <sup>1</sup>establish<sup>1</sup> a call center where department employees,  
37 or persons under contract with the department, are available in real-  
38 time to assist individuals in:

- 39 (1) navigating the SNAP application process;  
40 (2) checking on the status of an application; and  
41 (3) troubleshooting any issues with the application.

42 <sup>1</sup>**[d.]** b.<sup>1</sup> The commissioner shall apply to the Food and  
43 Nutrition Service within the United States Department of  
44 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
45 the provisions of this section.

46 <sup>1</sup>**[e.]** c.<sup>1</sup> As used in this section:

47 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

1 “Department” means the Department of Human Services <sup>1</sup> **“”** .<sup>1</sup>  
2 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
3 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and  
4 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).  
5

6 <sup>1</sup>**[2.** The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules  
7 and regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”  
8 P.L.1968, c.140 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to  
9 effectuate the provisions of this act. **]**<sup>1</sup>  
10

11 <sup>1</sup>4. Section 2 of P.L.2021, c.243 is amended to read as follows:

12 2. The Commissioner of Human Services **[shall]** may adopt  
13 rules and regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure  
14 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to  
15 implement the provisions of this act and P.L. , c. (pending  
16 before the Legislature as this bill).<sup>1</sup>

17 (cf: P.L.2021, c.243, s.2)  
18

19 <sup>1</sup>5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
20 Department of Human Services the sum of \$750,000 for the purpose  
21 of implementing the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
22 before the Legislature as this bill).<sup>1</sup>  
23

24 <sup>1</sup>**[3.]** 6.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.