

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 265, *approved January 12, 2026*
Assembly, No. 5435 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT requiring establishment of a consolidated application for
2 certain utility assistance programs and supplementing chapter
3 27D of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 "Department" means the Department of Community Affairs.

10 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Housing and
11 Community Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

12 "Division" means the Division of Housing and Community
13 Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

14 "State agency" means any department, division, office, board,
15 commission, council, or bureau in the Executive branch of State
16 government.

17 "Statewide nonprofit energy assistance organization" means a
18 nonprofit organization designated pursuant to P.L.2000, c.132
19 (C.48:2-29.38 et seq.).

20 b. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule, or regulation to
21 the contrary, the Division of Housing and Community Resources
22 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with each State
23 agency and Statewide nonprofit energy assistance organization that
24 administers ¹**its own utility assistance**¹ program providing
25 financial assistance to residential customers for utility bill payments
26 or energy efficiency measures ¹**and that is not currently included in**
27 **the division's existing consolidated application portal**¹ to ¹**provide**
28 **a**¹ **be included in the division's**¹ consolidated, user-friendly Internet
29 website-based application form for those programs on the
30 department's Internet website. Each State agency and Statewide
31 nonprofit energy assistance organization identified by the
32 department pursuant to this section shall enter into a memorandum
33 of understanding with the department and shall assist the
34 department in ¹**developing**¹ **updating**¹ the consolidated application
35 ¹**, if applicable,**¹ including alerting the department of temporary
36 programs that provide financial assistance to residential customers
37 for utility bill payments or energy efficiency measures that the State
38 agency or Statewide nonprofit energy assistance organization may

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:

¹Assembly AHU committee amendments adopted May 8, 2025.

1 be directed to administer, so that the department may integrate that
2 temporary program into the consolidated application form.

3 c. The Department of Community Affairs, pursuant to the
4 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
5 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations it deems necessary to
6 effectuate the purposes of ¹["P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
7 the Legislature as this bill)] this act¹.

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9 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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14 Requires Division of Housing and Community Resources in
15 DCA and applicable State agencies and nonprofits to establish a
16 consolidated application for residential utility assistance programs.