

CHAPTER 265

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

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

C.52:27D-9.5 Memorandum of understanding, utility assistance program, Division of Housing and Community Resources, consolidated application portal.

1. a. As used in this section:

"Department" means the Department of Community Affairs.

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

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

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

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

b. Notwithstanding any provision of law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the Division of Housing and Community Resources shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with each State agency and Statewide nonprofit energy assistance organization that administers its own utility assistance program providing financial assistance to residential customers for utility bill payments or energy efficiency measures and that is not currently included in the division's existing consolidated application portal to be included in the division's consolidated, user-friendly Internet website-based application form for those programs on the department's Internet website. Each State agency and Statewide nonprofit energy assistance organization identified by the department pursuant to this section shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the department and shall assist the department in updating the consolidated application, if applicable, including alerting the department of temporary programs that provide financial assistance to residential customers for utility bill payments or energy efficiency measures that the State agency or Statewide nonprofit energy assistance organization may be directed to administer, so that the department may integrate that temporary program into the consolidated application form.

c. The Department of Community Affairs, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations it deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 12, 2026.