

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2247

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

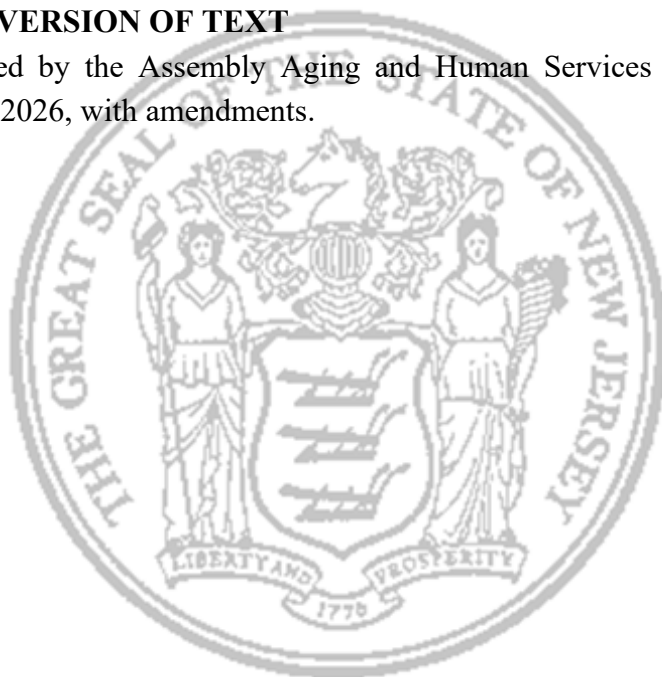
**Assemblyman Scharfenberger, Assemblywomen Dunn, Brennan and
Assemblyman Kearney**

SYNOPSIS

Requires Division of Family Development to maintain waiting list for persons applying for State's child care assistance program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee on February 19, 2026, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning the State's child care assistance program and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. Notwithstanding any law rule, or regulation to the contrary,
8 the Division of Family Development in the Department of Human
9 Services shall:

10 (1) maintain a waiting list of those ¹**[income eligible persons]**
11 presumptively eligible applicants¹ who apply to receive assistance
12 through the State's child care assistance program and are notified that
13 their applications will not be processed due to limited funding;

14 (2) implement procedures by which such persons may be placed on
15 the waiting list; ¹**[and]**¹

16 (3) establish methods for notifying ¹**[qualified]** presumptively
17 eligible¹ applicants when the division will process their applications
18 for the State's child care assistance program once funding becomes
19 available, including, but not limited to, posting such information on its
20 Internet website¹; and

21 (4) designate child care resource and referral agencies contracted
22 with the division to serve as access points to assist presumptively
23 eligible applicants with completing and submitting applications for the
24 State's child care assistance program and the self-attestation forms
25 developed pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this act.¹

26 b. ¹(1) For the purposes of placement of an presumptively eligible
27 applicant on the waiting list maintained by the division pursuant to
28 paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section, the division shall permit
29 the applicant to establish eligibility via a standardized self-attestation
30 form.

31 (a) The self-attestation form shall be developed by the division and
32 made publicly available, either online through the Department of
33 Human Services' Internet website or in paper form to be distributed by
34 child care resource and referral agencies, in languages including, but
35 not limited to, English and Spanish.

36 (b) The applicant may submit the application for the State's child
37 care assistance program and the self-attestation form electronically on
38 the division's Internet website, in person, through a child care resource
39 and referral agency, or by mail.

40 (2) The self-attestation form shall include information necessary to
41 establish presumptive eligibility including, but not limited to, the
42 applicant's income, household composition, residency, participation in
43 work, education, or job training activities, the birth month and year of
44 each child requiring care, and the applicant's contact information,

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 February 19, 2026.

1 including email address, telephone number, or other available methods
2 the division can use to contact the applicant.

3 (3) Completion and submission of the self-attestation form shall be
4 sufficient to establish presumptive eligibility for placement on the
5 waiting list. The division shall not require the submission of pay
6 stubs, tax returns, employer verification, or any other form of income
7 verification as a condition of placement on the waiting list.

8 (4) The final determination and certification that an applicant is
9 eligible for placement on the waiting list shall be made at the time the
10 division processes the application for enrollment in the State's child
11 care assistance program.

12 (5) The division shall notify an applicant of their placement on the
13 waiting list and any change in application status within 10 business
14 days of the receipt of a completed self-attestation form, using the
15 contact information provided by the applicant pursuant to paragraph
16 (2) of this subsection. Failure to provide notification to the applicant
17 within that timeframe shall not delay or prevent the applicant's
18 placement on the waiting list.

19 c.¹ The division shall ¹['annually']¹ publish¹, at least semi-
20 annually,¹ a report, to be made available on the Department of Human
21 Service's website and submitted to the Governor and the Legislature,
22 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), containing
23 non-identifying aggregate data about ¹['income-eligible persons']
24 presumptively eligible applicants¹ qualified for, and applying to
25 receive assistance through, the State's child care assistance program.
26 The report shall, at a minimum, include the number of:

27 (1) applications received for the State's child care assistance
28 program;

29 (2) ¹['eligible applicants approved to receive services through the
30 program'] presumptively eligible applicants, as determined by
31 submission of a completed self-attestation form¹;

32 (3) ¹['qualified persons that apply for services through the program
33 and are notified that their applications will not be processed due to
34 limited funding; and

35 (4) applicants placed on the waiting list developed pursuant to
36 subsection a. of this section'] applicants determined eligible and
37 approved for enrollment in the program;

38 (4) applicants placed on the waiting list due to insufficient program
39 funding; and

40 (5) applicants determined ineligible for the program, including
41 aggregate reason categories for ineligibility, such as income exceeding
42 eligibility limits, incomplete applications, or failure to meet activity
43 requirements or other program criteria.

44 d. The report published pursuant to subsection c. of this section
45 shall also include, to the extent practicable, information on:

46 (1) average processing time for applications;

47 (2) average length of time applicants remain on the waiting list;

- 1 (3) geographic distribution of applicants by county; and
2 (4) total number of children by age represented by applicants.
3 e. As used in this section, “presumptively eligible applicant”
4 means a person who has submitted a completed self-attestation form
5 proving that the person meets the State’s child care assistance program
6 eligibility criteria, including income requirements, residency
7 requirements, household composition, or participation in work,
8 education, or job training activities, and is awaiting a determination
9 and certification of eligibility for placement on the waiting list to
10 receive assistance through the State’s child care assistance program¹.
11
12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.