

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3612

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman Speight, Assemblymen Egan, Scharfenberger,
Assemblywoman Haider, Assemblyman Danielsen, Assemblywoman
Murphy, Assemblymen Walker, DeAngelo and Singh**

SYNOPSIS

Supplements FY2027 Appropriations Act; makes \$10 million off-budget appropriation to NJSHARES - S.M.A.R.T. Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee on October 5, 2026, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/5/2026)

1 A SUPPLEMENT to the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year
2 ending June 30, ¹**[2026]** 2027¹, ¹**[P.L.2025]** P.L.2026¹, ¹**[c.74]**
3 c.27¹.

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

7
8 1. The following language is added to section 1 of ¹**[P.L.2025]**
9 P.L.2026¹, ¹**[c.74]** c.27¹, the annual appropriations act for Fiscal
10 Year ¹**[2026]** 2027¹:

11
12 **22 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

13 ***50 Economic Planning, Development, and Security***

14 ***55 Social Service Programs***

15
16 Notwithstanding the provisions of any law or regulation to the
17 contrary ¹**[and in addition to the amount hereinabove]** , subject
18 to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and
19 Accounting, there is¹ appropriated for ¹**[the]** NJSHARES –
20 S.M.A.R.T. Program ¹**[,]**¹ an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000
21 ¹**[is appropriated]**¹ from the Universal Service Fund for utility
22 payment assistance ¹**[through the NJSHARES – S.M.A.R.T.**
23 **Program]**¹, including, but not limited to, utility arrearage
24 assistance, which shall be awarded pursuant to guidelines
25 established by the Commissioner of Community Affairs to
26 homeowners and tenants of residential property throughout the
27 State suffering financial difficulties. The commissioner shall
28 design and establish program criteria and guidelines consistent
29 with this provision ¹**[which]** that¹ the commissioner deems
30 necessary and appropriate to award grants to eligible
31 homeowners and tenants in an expeditious manner to enable
32 eligible homeowners and tenants to comply with their utility
33 obligations. To be eligible for ¹**[a grant under this program]**
34 such utility payment assistance¹, a homeowner or tenant shall not
35 be eligible for, or a recipient of funding from, private insurance
36 or from any other available funding opportunity ¹**[which]** that¹
37 may be considered a duplication of benefits.

38
39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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 ATU committee amendments adopted October 5, 2026.