

ASSEMBLY, No. 5441

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Revises certain deadlines and State funding regarding support provided by DHS, DOLWD, and Office of Volunteerism to NJ FamilyCare and SNAP recipients to meet federal eligibility requirements via volunteering.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning volunteerism and compliance with federal NJ
2 FamilyCare and SNAP eligibility requirements, amending and
3 repealing certain sections of P.L.2026, c.87, and supplementing
4 the annual appropriations act for the fiscal year ending June 30,
5 2027, P.L.2026, c.27.

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

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10 1. Section 2 of P.L.2026, c.87 (C.30:4D-6f2) is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 2. a. The Governor's Office of Volunteerism located in the
13 Department of State, or any successor entity, shall work with the
14 Department of Human Services and the Department of Labor and
15 Workforce Development, to modify and expand the State's existing
16 volunteer resources such that information is easily accessible to
17 State residents regarding compliance, via volunteer hours or
18 community service, with the Medicaid community engagement
19 requirements, established in section 71119 of the federal "One Big
20 Beautiful Bill Act," Pub.L.119-21, on or before October 1, 2027
21 and with the expanded work requirements for SNAP established in
22 section 10102 of the federal "One Big Beautiful Bill Act,"
23 Pub.L.119-21 on or before October 1, 2027, as well as any
24 subsequent federal regulations or guidance regarding these statutory
25 requirements. At a minimum, these efforts shall include:

26 (1) Modifying the existing, web-based HELPNJNOW portal, or
27 any equivalent successor portal, to allow the public to search and
28 apply for bona fide volunteer opportunities that comply with the
29 applicable requirements;

30 (2) Engaging and soliciting non-profit and community
31 organizations, businesses, governmental agencies, and other
32 appropriate entities to identify volunteer opportunities that comply
33 with the applicable requirements;

34 (3) Modifying the existing, web-based HELPNJNOW portal, or
35 any equivalent successor portal, so that entities can: register with
36 the State as an organization that offers volunteer opportunities in
37 compliance with the applicable requirements; and submit volunteer
38 opportunities to be included on the HELPNJNOW portal, or any
39 equivalent successor portal; and

40 (4) Providing a link to the existing, web-based HELPNJNOW
41 portal, or any equivalent successor portal, as well as an explanation
42 of the applicable requirements, on the State's NJ FamilyCare
43 webpage, the State's SNAP webpage, the Governor's Office of
44 Volunteerism webpage, and any other relevant webpage as
45 determined by the Commissioner of Human Services.

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.

1 b. **【The】** On or before October 1, 2027, the Department of
2 Human Services shall create, or modify an existing, web-based,
3 mobile friendly resource that allows NJ FamilyCare and SNAP
4 applicants and beneficiaries to submit to the appropriate eligibility
5 determination agencies all information and documentation
6 regarding volunteer or community service hours that are necessary
7 to demonstrate compliance with the Medicaid community
8 engagement requirements established in section 71119 of the
9 federal “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” Pub.L.119-21, and with the
10 expanded work requirements for SNAP established in section 10102
11 of the federal “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” Pub.L.119-21.

12 c. **【The】** On or before October 1, 2027, the Department of
13 Human Services and the Department of Labor and Workforce
14 Development shall establish a system by which to support the
15 tracking of work activities and participation, including volunteer
16 hours and community service acquired by SNAP applicants and
17 beneficiaries under this section, such that this information can be
18 shared between the departments in order to collaboratively
19 administer the NJ SNAP ETP, as that term is defined in section 2 of
20 P.L. 2013, c.45 (C.44:10-96). To the extent necessary to comply
21 with the provisions of this subsection, the departments shall enter
22 into the applicable data sharing agreements.

23 d. The Department of Human Services shall perform annual
24 audit reviews of the information and documentation submitted
25 pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to verify that all
26 information is accurate and that no abuse or malfeasance is being
27 committed.

28 e. The State shall be immune from any liability for any injury
29 incurred by a volunteer as a result of an individual’s volunteer or
30 community service stemming from the existing, web-based
31 HELPNJNOW portal, or any equivalent successor portal.

32 f. As used in this act:

33 “Medicaid” means the program established pursuant to P.L.1968,
34 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

35 “NJ FamilyCare” means the State-branded name given to the
36 programs established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et
37 seq.) and P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-8 et al.).

38 “SNAP” means the State’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
39 Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition
40 Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-525 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).
41 (cf: P.L.2026, c.87, s.2)

42
43 2. (New section) The following language provision is added to
44 section 1 of P.L.2026, c.27, the annual appropriations act for the
45 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

74 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

70 Government Direction, Management, and Control

74 General Government Services

DIRECT STATE SERVICES

Of the amounts hereinabove appropriated for the Office of Volunteerism, \$50,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Human Services and \$50,000 shall be transferred to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to effectuate the provisions of P.L.2026, c.87 (C.30:4D-6f1 et seq.), subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting.

3. Section 4 of P.L.2026, c.87 is repealed.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill amends section 2 of P.L.2026, c.87 (C.30:4D-6f2) to clarify that certain existing statutory provisions of that law are to be implemented on or before October 1, 2027. These provisions include requiring: 1) the Department of Human Services to create, or modify an existing, web-based, mobile friendly resource that allows NJ FamilyCare and SNAP applicants and beneficiaries to submit to the appropriate eligibility determination agencies all information and documentation regarding volunteer or community service hours that are necessary to demonstrate compliance with federal law; and 2) the Department of Human Services and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to establish a system by which to support the tracking of work activities and participation, including volunteer hours and community service acquired by SNAP applicants and beneficiaries under section 2 of P.L.2026, c.87 (C.30:4D-6f2), such that this information can be shared between the departments in order to collaboratively administer the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Program.

The bill also repeals a General Fund appropriation made under P.L.2026, c.87 (C.30:4D-6f1 et seq.) which provided \$50,000 to the Department of Human Services, \$50,000 to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and \$100,000 to the Office of Volunteerism located in the Department of State to effectuate the provisions of the law. This appropriation is replaced under the bill with supplementary language added to the FY 2027 Appropriations Act which transfers the following amounts from the existing \$319,000 appropriation to the Office of Volunteerism to effectuate the provisions of P.L.2026, c.87 (C.30:4D-6f1 et seq.): \$50,000 to

A5441 COUGHLIN

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- 1 the Department of Human Services and \$50,000 to the Department
- 2 of Labor and Workforce Development.