

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2197

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 26, 2002

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ROSE MARIE HECK**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DHS to develop prescreening application and expand outreach for food stamp program.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the food stamp program and supplementing Title  
2 44 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. The Director of the Division of Family Development in the  
8 Department of Human Services shall develop a prescreening  
9 application for the federal and State supplementary food stamp  
10 programs, which shall consist of no more than four pages. The  
11 purpose of the prescreening application shall be to quickly estimate a  
12 household's potential eligibility for the programs and the amount of  
13 benefit for which the family may be eligible. The prescreening  
14 application shall not be used for application to the programs.

15  
16 2. The Director of the Division of Family Development in the  
17 Department of Human Services shall require county welfare agencies  
18 to, at a minimum:

19 a. disseminate written outreach materials for the federal and State  
20 supplementary food stamp programs in multiple languages to senior  
21 centers, Social Security offices, grocery stores, preschools, food  
22 pantries, community-based agencies, housing complexes, One Stop  
23 Career Centers and community-based health care centers;

24 b. distribute the prescreening application established pursuant to  
25 this act to community-based agencies; and

26 c. offer minimum training for community-based agency staff to  
27 perform food stamp outreach, which would include prescreening  
28 households for the federal and State supplementary food stamp  
29 programs.

30  
31 3. The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services in the  
32 Department of Human Services, or its agent, shall distribute the  
33 applications for the federal and State supplementary food stamp  
34 programs used in the State to each NJ FamilyCare applicant.

35  
36 4. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
37 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
38 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of  
39 this act.

40  
41 5. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following enactment,  
42 but the Commissioner of Human Services may take such anticipatory  
43 administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the  
44 implementation of the act.

STATEMENT

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

This bill requires the Director of the Division of Family Development in the Department of Human Services to develop a prescreening application for the federal and State supplementary food stamp programs, which would consist of no more than four pages. The purpose of the prescreening application would be to quickly estimate a household's potential eligibility for the programs and the amount of benefit for which the family may be eligible. The prescreening application would not be used for application to the programs.

The bill provides that the Director of the Division of Family Development shall require county welfare agencies to, at a minimum:

- Ⓒ disseminate written outreach materials for the food stamp programs in multiple languages to senior centers, Social Security offices, grocery stores, preschools, food pantries, community-based agencies, housing complexes, One Stop Career Centers and community-based health care centers;
- Ⓒ distribute the prescreening application to community-based agencies; and
- Ⓒ offer minimum training for community-based agency staff to perform food stamp outreach, which would include prescreening households for the food stamp programs.

The bill also requires that the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services in the Department of Human Services, or its agent, distribute the applications for the food stamp programs to each NJ FamilyCare applicant.