

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 126

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 26, 2002

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ROSE MARIE HECK

District 38 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Memorializes Congress to update name of food stamp program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



AR126 HECK

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1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress of the
2 United States to update the name of the federal food stamp
3 program.

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5 WHEREAS, According to the most recent data from the United States
6 Department of Agriculture, in 1997 approximately 62% of eligible
7 individuals in the nation received food stamp benefits; in New
8 Jersey, only 58% of eligible individuals received food stamp
9 benefits; and

10 WHEREAS, According to America's Second Harvest, the nation's
11 largest domestic hunger relief organization, of the 23.3 million
12 individuals served annually by the organization, only 30% are
13 currently receiving food stamp benefits; and

14 WHEREAS, Elderly individuals in households with earnings, individuals
15 in households with income above the federal poverty level and
16 individuals who are eligible for a small amount of food stamp
17 benefits have typically participated in the food stamp program at a
18 low rate; and

19 WHEREAS, Traditionally, food stamp benefits were distributed to
20 individuals in the form of paper coupons that could be used to
21 purchase eligible items; currently, approximately 80% of all food
22 stamp benefits are provided electronically, allowing individuals to
23 purchase eligible items with a plastic card similar to a debit card;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Notwithstanding recent improvements to the food stamp
26 program and the virtual elimination of the traditional and
27 conspicuous food stamp coupons, individuals may be deterred from
28 applying for food stamp benefits because they associate a stigma
29 with the program; now, therefore,

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31 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
32 *Jersey:*

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34 1. This House memorializes the Congress of the United States to
35 update the name of the federal food stamp program to be more user-
36 friendly and to reflect the improvements that the program has
37 undergone.

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39 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
40 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the
41 General Assembly, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture,
42 the presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and each
43 member of New Jersey's Congressional delegation.

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STATEMENT

This resolution memorializes the Congress of the United States to update the name of the federal food stamp program to be more user-friendly and to reflect the improvements that the program has undergone. Notwithstanding recent improvements to the food stamp program and the virtual elimination of the traditional and conspicuous food stamp coupons, individuals may be deterred from applying for food stamp benefits because they associate a stigma with the program.