

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2956**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**216th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

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**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen McKeon, Benson, Assemblywomen Tucker, Spencer, Senators Turner, Vitale, Lesniak, Weinberg, Pou, Gordon, Ruiz, Assemblymen Wimberly, Danielsen, Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, Lampitt and Assemblyman Gusciora**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides \$21 minimum annual energy assistance to qualified families; qualifies families to receive additional nutritional assistance.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 23, 2014, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2015)

1 AN ACT concerning nutrition and energy assistance and  
2 supplementing Title 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. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule or regulation  
8 to the contrary, every household in the State that is eligible to  
9 receive <sup>2</sup>[low-income home energy assistance benefits issued under  
10 the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),  
11 established pursuant to Pub.L. 97-35, Title XXVI (42 U.S.C. s.8621  
12 et seq.) ,] benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
13 Program (SNAP) established pursuant to the “Food and Nutrition  
14 Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.)<sup>2</sup> shall  
15 receive a minimum annual <sup>2</sup>energy assistance<sup>2</sup> payment of \$21 <sup>1</sup>[,  
16 or such amount as required by federal law,]<sup>1</sup> in order to qualify the  
17 household for a <sup>2</sup>heating and cooling<sup>2</sup> standard utility allowance  
18 under the <sup>2</sup>[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
19 established pursuant to Pub. L. 95-113, Title XIII (7 U.S.C. s.2011  
20 et seq.) and administered by the Division of Family Development in  
21 the Department of Human Services] SNAP program, in accordance  
22 with 7 U.S.C. s.2014(e)(6)(C), unless a standard utility allowance  
23 would have been unavailable to the household under the State and  
24 federal criteria for SNAP and any applicable energy assistance  
25 programs that were in place as of July 1, 2013<sup>2</sup>. This annual  
26 payment shall be disbursed <sup>2</sup>[by the Department of Community  
27 Affairs]<sup>2</sup> in accordance with the provisions of the <sup>2</sup>[LIHEAP  
28 program] Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program  
29 (LIHEAP), established pursuant to Pub.L. 97-35, Title XXVI (42  
30 U.S.C. s.8621 et seq.) or other energy assistance program for which  
31 the household is eligible, as applicable. Any costs associated with  
32 increasing LIHEAP payments shall first be charged to the  
33 unexpended balance of federal funds available for the LIHEAP  
34 program, to the extent permitted by federal law and regulation<sup>2</sup>.

35

36 2. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with  
37 the Commissioner of Community Affairs, shall adopt, pursuant to  
38 the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1  
39 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be necessary to  
40 implement this act.

41

42 3. 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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHU committee amendments adopted June 12, 2014.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted June 23, 2014.