

ASSEMBLY, No. 1729

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 31 (Hudson)

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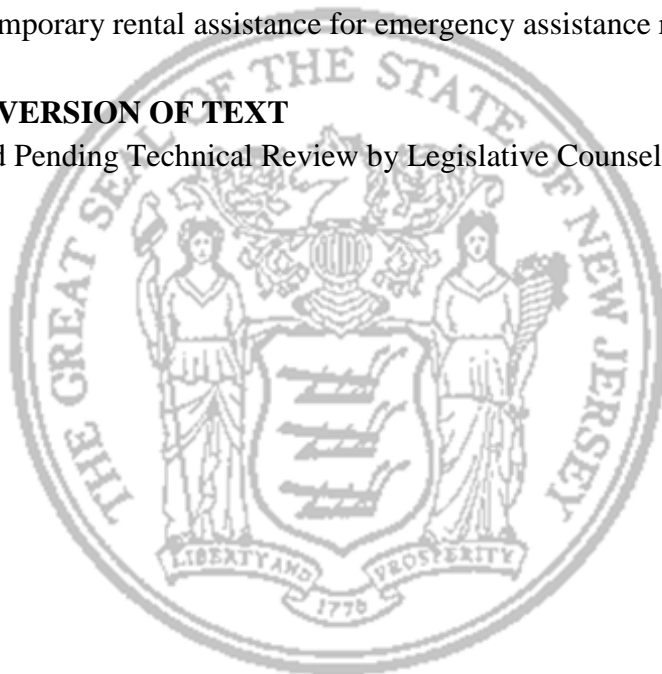
Assemblywomen McKnight, Chaparro and Speight

SYNOPSIS

Permits temporary rental assistance for emergency assistance recipients.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/8/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning certain emergency assistance benefits and
2 amending P.L.1997, c.14.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 8 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-51) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 8. a. Emergency assistance shall be provided only to recipients
10 of Work First New Jersey and persons receiving Supplemental
11 Security Income pursuant to P.L.1973, c.256 (C.44:7-85 et seq.) in
12 emergent situations, as determined by the commissioner, for up to
13 12 cumulative months; except that:

14 (1) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
15 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to an
16 assistance unit with dependent children, if the commissioner
17 determines that a case of extreme hardship exists. The
18 commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis
19 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency
20 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the
21 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist. If the
22 extreme hardship continues to exist at the end of the six-month
23 period, the commissioner may provide an additional six months of
24 emergency assistance to no more than 10% of those assistance units
25 with dependent children which are receiving temporary rental
26 assistance under the emergency assistance component of the
27 program, based upon the most current data available; and

28 (2) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
29 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to no more
30 than 10% of single adults and couples without dependent children
31 who are receiving temporary rental assistance under the emergency
32 assistance component of the program, if the commissioner
33 determines that a case of extreme hardship exists. The
34 commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis
35 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency
36 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the
37 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist.

38 Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to this
39 section shall count toward the maximum period of emergency
40 assistance allowed.

41 b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute
42 from the person's income toward the payment of all emergency
43 shelter arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary
44 rental assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
45 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a

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 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the
2 person's dependency on emergency assistance and take all other
3 actions required by the commissioner.

4 c. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to establish
5 classifications for hotel or motel per diem rates in accordance with
6 the level of enhanced services provided at a participating hotel or
7 motel.

8 d. The provisions of this section shall apply to a person who
9 receives general public assistance pursuant to P.L.1947, c.156
10 (C.44:8-107 et seq.) after the effective date of this act and is
11 subsequently transferred directly into the Work First New Jersey
12 program.

13 e. In addition to any other types of emergency assistance as
14 defined in regulations and promulgated by the commissioner
15 pursuant to this section, temporary rental assistance may be
16 provided to a recipient, if appropriate for the individual or family
17 situation, when the recipient is facing eviction and conditions in
18 paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection are met:

19 (1) Temporary rental assistance may be provided to maintain
20 current permanent housing which had previously been affordable,
21 but which is no longer affordable to the recipient for reasons
22 including, but not limited to, loss of employment and temporary
23 unemployment or underemployment; or

24 (2) Temporary rental assistance may be provided when it is
25 determined that maintaining the unit in the current housing
26 arrangement is both the least costly alternative and serves to
27 preserve the family structure while the search for affordable
28 housing continues.

29 (cf: P.L.1997, c.14, s.8)

30
31 2. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
32 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
33 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations as the commissioner
34 determines necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

35
36 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
37 month following the date of enactment.

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40 STATEMENT

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42 This bill would provide for temporary rental assistance for
43 individuals who are eligible for emergency assistance and need
44 financial assistance to stay in their own home, due to temporary
45 conditions. The temporary rental assistance provided for in this bill
46 would be in addition to all other types of emergency assistance
47 which are currently provided by the State to eligible individuals.

1 Specifically, if an individual who is eligible for emergency
2 assistance is facing eviction due to temporary conditions, the
3 individual can receive temporary rental assistance. Temporary
4 rental assistance may be provided to maintain current permanent
5 housing which had previously been affordable, but which is no
6 longer affordable to the recipient for reasons including, but not
7 limited to, loss of employment and temporary unemployment or
8 underemployment. Additionally, temporary rental assistance may
9 be provided when it is determined that maintaining the unit in the
10 current housing arrangement is both the least costly alternative and
11 serves to preserve the family structure while the search for
12 affordable housing continues.

13 By providing funding for eligible individuals to stay in their
14 current residence, the State can prevent unnecessary homelessness,
15 maintain the family unit, and be fiscally responsible.