

ASSEMBLY, No. 5203

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 11, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle and Speight

SYNOPSIS

Allows individual to receive additional lifetime emergency assistance under certain circumstances, subject to annual allocation limits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)

1 AN ACT concerning assistance and amending P.L.1997, c.14.

2

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

5

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

8 8. a. Emergency assistance shall be provided only to
9 recipients of Work First New Jersey and persons receiving
10 Supplemental Security Income pursuant to P.L.1973, c.256 (C.44:7-
11 85 et seq.) in emergent situations. The standards for eligibility shall
12 be established by the commissioner by regulation, except that
13 emergency assistance shall be granted to an individual or family in
14 which the individual or family is in a state of homelessness or
15 imminent homelessness that, according to a signed attestation by
16 the applicant, is the result of imminent or demonstrated domestic
17 violence that may imperil the health and safety of the individual or
18 family. Emergency assistance shall be provided for up to 12
19 cumulative months **【;】** , regardless of whether the recipient
20 receives emergency assistance as a recipient of Work First New
21 Jersey, as a recipient of Supplemental Security Income, or pursuant
22 to a combination thereof, except that:

23 (1) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
24 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to a family
25 with dependent children, if the commissioner determines that a case
26 of extreme hardship exists. The commissioner shall review each
27 such case on a monthly basis during the six-month period and shall
28 continue the emergency assistance only if the commissioner
29 determines, based upon the monthly review, that the extreme
30 hardship continues to exist. If the extreme hardship continues to
31 exist at the end of the six-month period, the commissioner may
32 provide an additional six months of emergency assistance to no
33 more than 10 **【%】** percent of those families with dependent children
34 which are receiving temporary rental assistance under the
35 emergency assistance component of the program, based upon the
36 most current data available;

37 (2) the commissioner may provide for an extension of
38 emergency assistance for up to six additional months to no more
39 than 10 **【%】** percent of single adults and couples without dependent
40 children who are receiving temporary rental assistance under the
41 emergency assistance component of the program, if the
42 commissioner determines that a case of extreme hardship exists.
43 The commissioner shall review each such case on a monthly basis
44 during the six-month period and shall continue the emergency

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 assistance only if the commissioner determines, based upon the
2 monthly review, that the extreme hardship continues to exist; **[and]**

3 (3) the commissioner shall provide for an extension of
4 emergency assistance to an individual, if the commissioner
5 determines that the individual is:

6 (a) the parent or other relative of a disabled child or other
7 disabled dependent who must provide full-time care for the disabled
8 child or other disabled dependent, as defined by regulation of the
9 commissioner;

10 (b) permanently disabled, including, but not limited to, a person
11 eligible for disability insurance benefits under Title II of the federal
12 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. s.401 et seq.), as defined by
13 regulation of the commissioner;

14 (c) over 60 years of age; or

15 (d) chronically unemployable as defined by regulation of the
16 commissioner.

17 The commissioner shall review each individual's eligibility for
18 emergency assistance every six months and shall continue the
19 emergency assistance if the commissioner determines, based upon
20 the review, that the individual continues to meet the criteria
21 established pursuant to this paragraph (3); and

22 (4) (a) subject to the requirements of subsection h. of this
23 section, the commissioner shall provide that all months of
24 emergency assistance received more than 84 months from the date
25 of application for emergency assistance shall not be counted toward
26 the cumulative 12-month limit of emergency assistance as required
27 pursuant to this subsection.

28 (b) The Department of Human Services shall provide case
29 management services to an individual receiving emergency
30 assistance pursuant to this paragraph. As used in this subparagraph:
31 “case management services” means personalized services to assist
32 an individual or a family receiving emergency assistance pursuant
33 to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph focusing on housing stability
34 and delivery of services related to housing needs that can be
35 addressed within a set time frame and available resources.

36 (c) In no case shall any individual provided emergency
37 assistance pursuant to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph be
38 provided a cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency
39 assistance pursuant to this subsection, provided that extensions of
40 emergency assistance provided pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), or
41 (3) of this subsection shall not count toward the cumulative total of
42 24 months.

43 **【Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to**
44 **paragraph (1) or (2) of this section shall count toward the maximum**
45 **period of emergency assistance allowed.】**

46 b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute
47 from the person's income toward the payment of all emergency
48 shelter arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary

1 rental assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
2 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a
3 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the
4 person's dependency on emergency assistance and take all other
5 actions required by the commissioner.

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

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

15 e. The commissioner shall require that identifying information
16 for all individuals who receive emergency assistance pursuant to
17 subsection a. of this section shall be entered into the Foothold
18 Homeless Management Information System, or a similar electronic
19 database as designated by the commissioner. The identifying
20 information shall include: an individual identifier of the recipient;
21 the amount and type of emergency assistance delivered to the
22 recipient; and the time period in which emergency assistance was
23 provided to the recipient. The information shall be compiled by the
24 Division of Family Development on an annual basis and submitted
25 to the Legislature no later than April 1 of the current calendar year
26 for expenditures in the prior calendar year.

27 f. Recipients of emergency assistance benefits shall be
28 notified, in writing, of any termination or modification of the
29 recipient's emergency assistance benefits at least 30 days prior to
30 the termination or modification of the recipient's emergency
31 assistance benefits.

32 g. Section 9 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-52) shall apply to any
33 denial, termination, or modification of emergency assistance
34 benefits.

35 h. Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family
36 Development in the Department of Human Services during any
37 fiscal year, no more than \$20 million shall be available for the cost
38 of emergency assistance provided pursuant to subparagraph (a) of
39 paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section, and no more than \$5
40 million shall be available for the cost of case management services
41 provided pursuant to subparagraph (b) of paragraph (4) of
42 subsection a. of this section. Nothing in this subsection shall be
43 construed to require that emergency assistance be awarded on any
44 basis other than by the order in which applications are received. In
45 no case shall the monthly allotment of emergency assistance
46 awarded to any individual be reduced based on the overall limit on
47 emergency assistance funds established pursuant to this subsection,
48 and no additional emergency assistance shall be awarded pursuant

1 to paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section once the overall
2 limit on emergency assistance funds established pursuant to this
3 subsection has been reached.

4 i. The commissioner shall annually report to the Legislature,
5 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the number
6 of recipients deemed ineligible for emergency assistance on the
7 grounds that the individual has reached the maximum period of
8 emergency assistance allowed pursuant to this section, and the total
9 number of months of emergency assistance provided by the
10 department pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

11 (cf: P.L.2018, c.164, s.1)

12
13 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

14
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16 STATEMENT

17
18 This bill requires that Work First New Jersey emergency
19 assistance benefits received by an individual more than seven years
20 prior to submitting an application for emergency assistance benefits
21 will not be counted toward the cumulative 12-month limit on
22 benefits that may be provided to an individual under the program.
23 However, the bill specifies that no individual may receive a
24 cumulative total of more than 24 months of emergency services
25 benefits pursuant to the bill, which cumulative total will not include
26 extensions of benefits that are available under current law to:
27 qualifying families with dependent children; single adults and
28 couples without dependent children who are receiving temporary
29 rental assistance; and individuals who are disabled, are providing
30 full-time care to a disabled child or other dependent to whom they
31 are related, are over 60 years of age, or are chronically
32 unemployable.

33 The Department of Human Services will be required to provide
34 case management services to assist individuals and families who are
35 receiving additional emergency assistance benefits under the bill.

36 Of the total revenues appropriated to the Division of Family
37 Development in the Department of Human Services during any
38 fiscal year, no more than \$20 million will be available for the cost
39 of additional emergency assistance provided pursuant to the bill,
40 and no more than \$5 million will be available for case management
41 services provided pursuant to the bill. Emergency assistance is to
42 be awarded based on the order in which applications are received.
43 In no case is the monthly allotment of emergency assistance
44 awarded to any individual to be reduced based on the overall
45 funding cap for emergency assistance established under the bill, and
46 no additional emergency assistance is to be provided under the bill
47 once the overall funding cap is reached.

1 The Commissioner of Human Services will be required to
2 annually report to the Legislature the number of emergency
3 assistance cases terminated on the grounds that the recipient
4 reached the maximum allowed period of emergency assistance, and
5 the total number of months of emergency assistance provided by the
6 department.