

ASSEMBLY, No. 5312

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Human Services to streamline SNAP application process for senior citizens and conduct outreach regarding senior SNAP participation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the participation of senior citizens in the New
2 Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and
3 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services, to the
9 maximum extent permissible under federal law, shall review and
10 streamline the SNAP application process for senior citizens, as
11 provided in this section. The goal of the streamlining process shall
12 be to ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either
13 matches or exceeds the national average.

14 b. In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, as
15 required by this section, the commissioner shall, at a minimum:

16 (1) develop and make available a simplified SNAP application
17 form for use by seniors;

18 (2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's
19 various social services programs and platforms, in order to ensure
20 that senior citizens are able to apply for SNAP benefits through
21 multiple points of entry; and

22 (3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to facilitate,
23 the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in the
24 Medicaid program and SNAP.

25 c. The Department of Human Services, working in consultation
26 and cooperation with relevant senior citizen advocacy
27 organizations, shall engage in comprehensive outreach efforts and
28 public awareness campaigns to ensure that all eligible seniors are
29 made aware of their ability to apply for and obtain SNAP benefits
30 through a streamlined and expedited process. At a minimum, the
31 department shall provide outreach at all health care facilities, long-
32 term care facilities, county welfare agencies, and other social
33 service agencies that serve seniors in the State, and shall use all
34 available media, including print, radio, television, and the Internet,
35 to advertise the availability of the streamlined SNAP application
36 process established pursuant to this section.

37 d. As used in this section:

38 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

39 "Department" means the Department of Human Services"

40 "Medicaid program" means the State Medicaid program,
41 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

42 "Senior citizen" or "senior" means a person who is 65 years of
43 age or older.

44 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
45 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and
46 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.)
47 and P.L.1998, c.32 (C.44:10-79 et seq.).

1 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
2 regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
3 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
4 implement the provisions of this act.

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6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill would require the Commissioner of Human Services to
12 review and streamline the application process for senior citizens
13 who wish to participate in the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
14 Assistance Program (SNAP), to the maximum extent permissible
15 under federal law. The goal of the streamlining process would be to
16 ensure that the number of senior SNAP participants either matches
17 or exceeds the national average.

18 In streamlining the SNAP application process for seniors, the
19 commissioner would be required to: 1) develop and make available
20 a simplified SNAP application form for use by seniors; 2) provide
21 for the increased sharing of data between the State’s various social
22 services programs and platforms, in order to ensure that senior
23 citizens are able to apply for SNAP benefits through multiple points
24 of entry; and 3) authorize, and establish appropriate procedures to
25 facilitate, the simultaneous or cross enrollment of eligible seniors in
26 the State Medicaid program and SNAP.

27 The bill would also require the Department of Human Services to
28 engage in comprehensive outreach efforts and public awareness
29 campaigns to ensure that all eligible seniors are made aware of their
30 ability to apply for and obtain SNAP benefits through the
31 streamlined and expedited processes established under the bill. The
32 bill would require the department to work in consultation and
33 cooperation with senior citizen advocacy organizations in
34 performing this outreach.