

ASSEMBLY, No. 5313

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 2019

Sponsored by:

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District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

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District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Permits self-verification of unearned income, household size, residency, identity, and shelter expenses on New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program application for certain senior citizens.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the verification process under New Jersey
2 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for certain senior
3 citizens and 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 Division of Family Development in the Department
9 of Human Services shall permit the self-verification of unearned
10 income, household size, residency, identity, and shelter expenses,
11 unless the information is questionable, for the purposes of
12 determining benefits under the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
13 Assistance Program for any household which includes a senior
14 citizen and which has no earned income. To the extent possible, the
15 division shall require a New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
16 Assistance Program application processing agency to use electronic
17 verification sources to confirm information that is self-verified
18 pursuant to this act.

19 b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the
20 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of
21 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
22 the provisions of this act.

23 c. As used in this act:

24 "Senior citizen" means an individual who is 60 years of age or
25 older by the last day of the month in which the application for New
26 Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits is
27 submitted.

28 "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" means the
29 supplemental nutrition assistance program, established pursuant to
30 the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-525 (7
31 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.).

32 "Questionable" means inconsistent with: statements made by the
33 applicant; other information in the application or previous
34 applications; or information received by the department, a county
35 welfare agency, or other New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
36 Assistance Program application processing agencies.

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

41
42 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
43 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of
44 Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in
45 advance thereof as may be necessary for the implementation of this
46 act.

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STATEMENT

The bill permits self-verification of unearned income, household size, residency, identity, and shelter expenses under the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamps Program, for certain senior citizens.

Specifically, the bill requires the Division of Family Development in the Department of Human Services to permit the self-verification of unearned income, household size, residency, identity, and shelter expenses, unless the information is questionable, for the purposes of determining benefits under the NJ SNAP for any household which includes a senior citizen, defined as an individual who is 60 years of age or older by the last day of the month in which the application for NJ SNAP benefits is submitted, and which has no earned income. To the extent possible, the division is to require a NJ SNAP application processing agency to use electronic verification sources to confirm information that is self-verified pursuant to this bill.

Under the bill, questionable means information that is inconsistent with: statements made by the applicant; other information in the application or previous applications; or information received by the department or a county welfare agency.

The Commissioner of Human Services is required to apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement a standard medical expense deduction under the NJ SNAP.