

# SENATE, No. 1965

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Assemblywoman ELIZABETH MAHER MUOIO**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

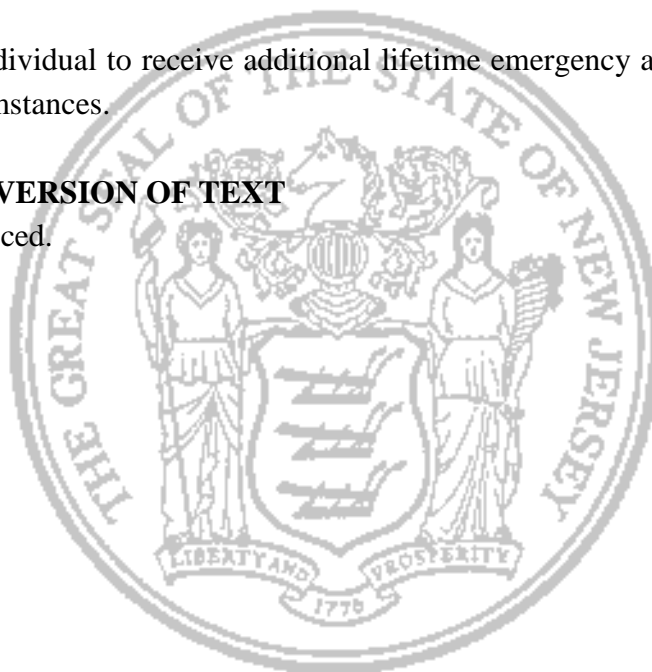
**Senator Ruiz, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywomen Chaparro, Quijano  
and Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows individual to receive additional lifetime emergency assistance under certain circumstances.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2018)**

S1965 SWEENEY

2

1 AN ACT extending the lifetime limit of emergency assistance 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. The standards for eligibility shall be  
13 established by the commissioner by regulation, except that  
14 emergency assistance shall be granted to an individual or family in  
15 which the individual or family is in a state of homelessness or  
16 imminent homelessness that, according to a signed attestation by  
17 the applicant, is the result of imminent or demonstrated domestic  
18 violence that may imperil the health and safety of the individual or  
19 family. Emergency assistance shall be provided for up to 12  
20 cumulative months; except that:

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

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

45 (3) the commissioner shall provide that all months of emergency  
46 assistance received prior to 84 months from the date of application

**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 for emergency assistance shall not be counted toward the  
2 cumulative 12 month limit of emergency assistance as required  
3 pursuant this section.

4 Any form of emergency assistance provided pursuant to this  
5 section shall count toward the maximum period of emergency  
6 assistance allowed.

7 b. A person receiving emergency assistance shall contribute  
8 from the person's income toward the payment of all emergency  
9 shelter arrangements, including temporary housing and temporary  
10 rental assistance, in accordance with regulations adopted by the  
11 commissioner. As a condition of receipt of emergency assistance, a  
12 person shall be required to take all reasonable steps to end the  
13 person's dependency on emergency assistance and take all other  
14 actions required by the commissioner.

15 c. The commissioner shall adopt regulations to establish  
16 classifications for hotel or motel per diem rates in accordance with  
17 the level of enhanced services provided at a participating hotel or  
18 motel.

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

24 (cf: P.L. 2017, c.273)

25

26 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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31 This bill requires that Work First New Jersey emergency assistance  
32 benefits, when received by an individual more than seven years prior  
33 to submitting an application for emergency assistance benefits, should  
34 not be counted towards the program's cumulative 12 month benefit  
35 limit.

36 Currently, an individual is limited to 12 months of Work First New  
37 Jersey lifetime emergency assistance benefits, plus an additional six  
38 months in certain circumstances. This bill requires that the  
39 Commissioner of Human Services not count any months of emergency  
40 assistance that were received by an individual more than 84 months  
41 (seven years) prior to that individual submitting an application for  
42 emergency assistance benefits, when determining whether an  
43 individual reached the maximum amount of emergency assistance  
44 permitted under the law.