

ASSEMBLY, No. 2281

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

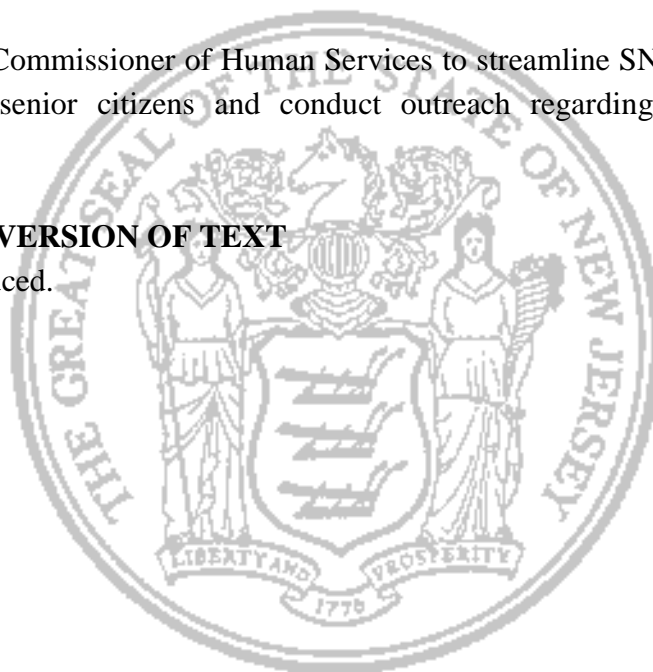
Assemblywoman Timberlake, Assemblymen Benson, Houghtaling, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblymen Holley, Danielsen, Assemblywomen Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, McKnight, Carter, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywomen Jimenez, Jasey, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Tully and Assemblywoman Lopez

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.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2020)

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

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

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

35 d. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the
36 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of
37 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
38 the provisions of this section.

39 e. As used in this section:

40 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

41 "Department" means the Department of Human Services"

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

44 "Senior citizen" or "senior" means a person who is 60 years of
45 age or older.

46 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
47 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and
48 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 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.

5

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

26 The bill would also require the Department of Human Services to
27 engage in comprehensive outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible
28 seniors are made aware of their ability to apply for and obtain
29 SNAP benefits through the streamlined and expedited processes
30 established under the bill. The bill would require the department to
31 work in consultation and cooperation with senior citizen advocacy
32 organizations in performing this outreach. Finally, the bill would
33 require the Commissioner of Human Services to apply to the Food
34 and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of
35 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
36 the provisions of the bill.