

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2281

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

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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 amended by the Senate on March 25, 2021.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2021)

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:*

7
 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 ¹**[the national average]** New Jersey's overall SNAP participation
 14 rates¹.

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

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

19 (2) provide for the increased sharing of data between the State's
 20 various social services programs and platforms; and

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

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

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

40 e. As used in this section:

41 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

42 "Department" means the Department of Human Services"

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

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted March 25, 2021.

1 “Senior citizen” or “senior” means a person who is 60 years of
2 age or older.

3 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition
4 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and
5 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

6
7 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
8 regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
9 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
10 implement the provisions of this act.

11
12 3. This act shall take effect immediately.