

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3858

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

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**Senator CHRIS A. BROWN**

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**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Timberlake, Assemblyman Wimberly, Assemblywomen Lopez, Chaparro, Assemblymen Chiaravalloti, Giblin, Assemblywomen Downey, Reynolds-Jackson, Senators Stack and Turner**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Commissioner of Human Services to issue supplemental cash assistance payments to Work First New Jersey recipients under certain circumstances; makes appropriation.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning supplemental cash payments to Work First New  
2 Jersey recipients, supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes,  
3 and making an appropriation.  
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, in collaboration  
9 with county welfare agencies, shall issue supplemental cash  
10 assistance payments to eligible recipients of the Work First New  
11 Jersey program, established pursuant to P.L.1997, c. 38 (C.44:10-55  
12 et seq.), in addition to the standard benefits issued under the program,  
13 subject to the following conditions:

14 (1) during a public health emergency declared by the Governor,  
15 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-3), in which the  
16 commissioner determines that the standard benefits issued under the  
17 Work First New Jersey program are not sufficient to support the  
18 needs of recipients in the State; and

19 (2) the payments shall be in an amount equal to a recipient's  
20 monthly benefit amount for the most recent complete month.

21 b. Following the initial determination to issue supplemental cash  
22 assistance payments as provided for in subsection a. of this section,  
23 the commissioner shall make all subsequent determinations on a  
24 monthly basis until the supplemental cash assistance payments cease.

25 c. The commissioner shall distribute the supplemental cash  
26 assistance payments via the State's electronic benefit transfer system.  
27 If an eligible recipient does not participate in the electronic benefit  
28 transfer system, the commissioner shall determine the most efficient  
29 means to distribute the payment, which the recipient shall receive no  
30 later than 15 days following the initial determination.  
31

32 2. There is appropriated such sum of money as may be necessary  
33 from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to  
34 implement the provisions of this act, including any necessary funds  
35 for the administration of the supplemental cash assistance payments.  
36

37 3. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the  
38 "Administrative Procedures Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
39 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations necessary for the  
40 implementation of this act.  
41

42 4. This act shall take effect immediately.  
43  
44

45 STATEMENT

46  
47 This bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in  
48 collaboration with county welfare agencies, to issue supplemental

1 cash assistance payments to eligible recipients of the Work First New  
2 Jersey program established pursuant to P.L.1997, c. 38 (C.44:10-55  
3 et seq.), in addition to the standard benefits issued under the program,  
4 subject to the following conditions:

5 (1) during a public health emergency declared by the Governor,  
6 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-3), in which the  
7 commissioner determines that the standard benefits issued under the  
8 Work First New Jersey program are not sufficient to support the  
9 needs of recipients in the State; and

10 (2) the payments shall be in an amount equal to a recipient's  
11 monthly benefit amount for the most recent complete month.

12 Following the initial determination to issue supplemental cash  
13 assistance payments, the commissioner is required to make all  
14 subsequent determinations on a monthly basis until the supplemental  
15 cash assistance payments cease. Furthermore, the bill directs the  
16 commissioner to distribute the supplemental cash assistance  
17 payments via the State's electronic benefit transfer system. If an  
18 eligible recipient does not participate in the electronic benefit transfer  
19 system, the commissioner is to determine the most efficient means to  
20 distribute the payment, which the recipient is to receive no later than  
21 15 days following the initial determination.

22 Under the bill, there is appropriated such sum of money as may be  
23 necessary from the General Fund to the Department of Human  
24 Services to implement the provisions of the bill, including any  
25 necessary funds for the administration of the supplemental cash  
26 assistance payments.