[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5880

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

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District 19 (Middlesex)

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District 11 (Monmouth)

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Assemblywomen Quijano, Downey, Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywoman Speight, Senators Ruiz and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Directs DHS to develop mobile software for SNAP recipients; appropriates \$2 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Women and Children Committee on June 16, 2021, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)

AN ACT concerning a mobile software program for New Jersey
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program recipients

¹ [and], ¹ supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes ¹, and making an appropriation ¹.

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BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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- 1. As used in this act:
- "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

"Electronic benefit transfer card or benefit card" means a benefit card utilized by a consumer to gain access to nutrition assistance program benefits.

"¹[Mobile] Mobile-friendly¹ software ¹[program]¹" means a computer program or ¹web-based¹ software application designed to be ¹[downloaded onto and]¹ used in conjunction with a mobile electronic communication device, as defined herein, and available through multiple software platforms.

"Mobile electronic communication device" means any mobile device capable of communication or other transmission of information and includes, but is not limited to, a cellular telephone, wireless tablet, or other device with Internet capability, or other wireless communication device.

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

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- 2. a. The Department of Human Services shall develop and maintain, or enter into or modify an agreement with a third party to develop and maintain [, a mobile] mobile-friendly software [program] for SNAP recipients. The [mobile] mobile-friendly software [program] shall include, but not be limited to, functionality that allows a user of the mobile software program who is recipient of SNAP benefits to:
- (1) view the user's SNAP case status and the current benefits the user receives;
- (2) ¹ [view the current balance on the user's electronic benefit transfer card;
- 40 (3)]¹ request an electronic benefit transfer card or a replacement card ¹[and track the card's expected time of arrival by mail:
- 43 (4) (3) upload and submit required documents for continued 44 participation in SNAP and track the current processing status of 45 those documents;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

¹Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted June 16, 2021.

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1	¹ [(5)] (4) ¹ receive ¹ [alerts for upcoming SNAP appointments
2	and notices and updates regarding important deadlines or actions;
3	¹ [(6)] (5) ¹ read and print notices and letters;
4	¹ [(7)] (6) ¹ update contact information;
5	${}^{1}[(8)]$ $\underline{(7)}^{1}$ request to have a letter mailed to the user listing the
6	amount of benefits the user receives; ¹ [and
7	(9) $\frac{1}{8}$ view local contact information for the County Board of
8	Social Services for the county in which the user resides ¹ and
9	(9) access any other functionalities as determined by the
10	department ¹ .
11	b. The 'mobile mobile-friendly' software 'program' shall
12	be made available free of charge and in multiple languages.
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14	3. The commissioner shall apply for any:
15	a. waivers from the federal government, which are necessary
16	for the approval and implementation of this act; and
17	b. grants through the SNAP Process and Technology
18	Improvement Grants program within the United States Department
19	of Agriculture to receive federal funding to implement the
20	provisions of this act.
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22	4. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
23	"Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
24	1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations ¹ as may be
25	necessary ¹ to effectuate the provisions of this act.
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27	¹ 5. There is appropriated \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to
28	the Department of Human Services to fund the development and
29	maintenance of the mobile friendly software required pursuant to
30	P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
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32	¹ [5.] <u>6.</u> This act shall take effect immediately.