

SENATE, No. 2288

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

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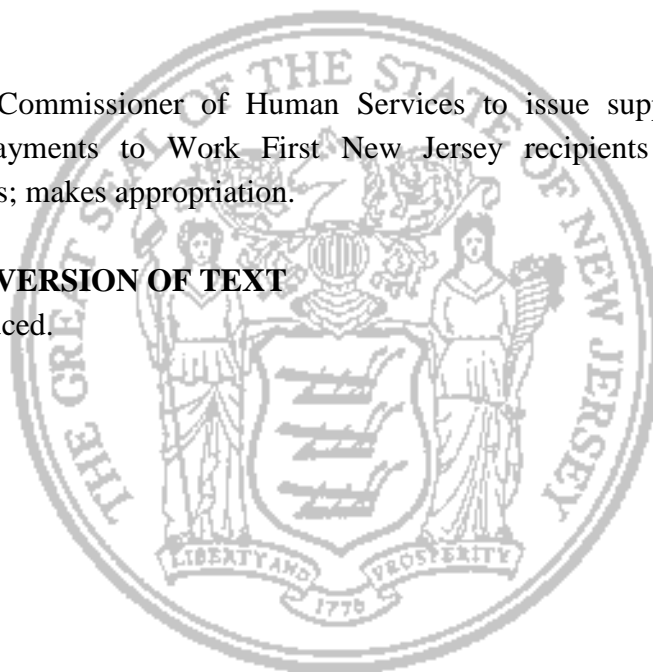
Senators Stack and Turner

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: 3/18/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning supplemental cash payments to Work First
2 New Jersey recipients, supplementing Title 44 of the Revised
3 Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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, in
9 collaboration with county welfare agencies, shall issue
10 supplemental cash assistance payments to eligible recipients of the
11 Work First New Jersey program, established pursuant to P.L.1997,
12 c. 38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), in addition to the standard benefits issued
13 under the program, 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
22 cash assistance payments as provided for in subsection a. of this
23 section, the commissioner shall make all subsequent determinations
24 on a monthly basis until the supplemental cash assistance payments
25 cease.

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

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

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

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44 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in collaboration with county welfare agencies, to issue supplemental cash assistance payments to eligible recipients of the Work First New Jersey program established pursuant to P.L.1997, c. 38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.), in addition to the standard benefits issued under the program, subject to the following conditions:

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

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

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

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