

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 216

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman McKnight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges United States Department of Agriculture to authorize permanent use of SNAP benefits for online purchasing of foods.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/17/2021)

1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Department  
2       of Agriculture to authorize permanently the use of Supplemental  
3       Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for the online purchasing  
4       of foods.  
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6   **WHEREAS**, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or  
7       SNAP, provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of  
8       low-income families in order to purchase healthy food and move  
9       towards self-sufficiency; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, This nationwide program is federally regulated by the  
11       United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pursuant to the  
12       “Food and Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011  
13       et seq.); and  
14   **WHEREAS**, The 2014 Farm Bill mandated that the USDA conduct a  
15       pilot program to test the feasibility and implications of allowing  
16       retail food stores to accept SNAP benefits through online  
17       transactions. In April 2019, New York became the first State to  
18       launch the pilot program; and  
19   **WHEREAS**, The USDA opened its pilot program for online grocery  
20       purchasing to New Jersey’s SNAP participants, following the  
21       department’s expedited efforts to introduce states into the pilot with  
22       the onset of the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) public health crisis,  
23       in March 2020; and  
24   **WHEREAS**, Currently, individuals participating in New Jersey SNAP  
25       may purchase groceries online through Amazon, and at  
26       participating Walmart, The Fresh Grocers, and ShopRite stores; and  
27   **WHEREAS**, According to the USDA, this pilot program is a two-year  
28       initiative, as such it is slated to expire in April of 2021; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, Enabling SNAP recipients to purchase foods online allows  
30       them to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
31       social distancing guidelines to help slow the spread of COVID-19;  
32       and  
33   **WHEREAS**, Despite advances in COVID-19 vaccinations, precautions  
34       to the virus such as social distancing are likely to be encouraged  
35       beyond the expiration of the SNAP online purchasing pilot  
36       program; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, Outside of the COVID-19 pandemic, online purchasing of  
38       food also supports those SNAP recipients who may be challenged  
39       with transportation or mobility issues, ensuring that such  
40       individuals continue to have access to healthy and nutritious foods;  
41       and  
42   **WHEREAS**, The online purchasing of food has become a widespread  
43       practice among general consumers, and it is appropriate for the  
44       same service to be made available to SNAP recipients; and  
45   **WHEREAS**, Purchasing groceries online is critical to providing safe  
46       and vital access to healthy food for low-income households and is  
47       necessary on a permanent basis to ensure an equity for SNAP  
48       recipients; now, therefore,

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1 transportation or mobility issues, ensuring that such individuals  
2 continue to have access to healthy and nutritious foods.  
3 Furthermore, the online purchasing of food has become a  
4 widespread practice among general consumers, and it is appropriate  
5 for the same service to be made available to SNAP recipients.