

SENATE, No. 3942

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 10, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to stagger issuance dates of SNAP benefits to newly eligible enrollees.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT concerning the issuance schedule of Supplemental
2 Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and supplementing Title
3 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 Division of Family Development in the Department
9 of Human Services shall implement an issuance schedule for newly
10 eligible enrollees of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
11 in which the issuance of benefits is staggered throughout the month,
12 provided that each household shall be issued benefits on or near the
13 same date once a month. The issuance schedule implemented by
14 the division shall comply with the federal regulations outlined at 7
15 CRF s.274.2.

16 b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply to the
17 Food and Nutrition Service within the United States Department of
18 Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
19 the provisions of this act.

20 c. As used in this act, "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
21 Program" means the supplemental nutrition assistance program,
22 established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of
23 2008," Pub.L.88-525 (7 U.S.C.s.2011 et seq.).

24
25 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
26 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
27 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
28 implement the provisions of this act.

29
30 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
31 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of
32 Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in
33 advance thereof as may be necessary for the implementation of this
34 act.

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37 STATEMENT

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39 This bill directs the Division of Family Development in the
40 Department of Human Services to implement an issuance schedule
41 for newly eligible enrollees of the Supplemental Nutrition
42 Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp
43 program, in which the issuance of benefits is staggered throughout
44 the month, provided that each household is issued benefits on or
45 near the same date once a month. The issuance schedule
46 implemented by the division is required to comply with the federal
47 regulations outlined at 7 CRF s.274.2, which, among other things,
48 allows state agencies to stagger the issuance of benefits as long as

1 no more than 40 days elapses between the issuance of any two
2 allotments for a household.

3 The issuance of SNAP benefits refers to the date when a
4 household's SNAP benefits are uploaded onto their electronic
5 benefits transfer card each month and are available for use at
6 authorized food retail locations. Currently, all SNAP enrollees in
7 New Jersey are issued benefits within the first five days of the
8 month. Under this bill, new enrollees would be issued benefits
9 through the month. In doing so, this bill codifies a best practice for
10 SNAP recommended by the Food Research and Action Center. By
11 staggering the issuance of benefits, the State can help reduce
12 congestion and product availability limitations at local grocery
13 stores and SNAP offices during the existing five-day monthly
14 issuance period.

15 The bill also direct the Commissioner of Human Services to
16 apply to the Food and Nutrition Service within the United States
17 Department of Agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals
18 to implement the provisions of the bill. The bill is to take effect on
19 the first day of the fourth month next following the date of
20 enactment, but the commissioner may take such advance
21 anticipatory administrative action as may be necessary for the
22 implementation of the bill.