

ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2798

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2022

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2798, with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill requires the Department of Human Services, in determining an applicant's income eligibility, or re-determining a beneficiary's income eligibility for the NJ FamilyCare program, the Work First New Jersey Program, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to exclude from income the first \$5,000 earned during a calendar year as a community outreach worker for a health promotion or disease prevention program.

Under the bill: "community outreach worker" means a temporary employee of a non-profit community-based organization, health care system, local health department, or other similar organization, who is paid hourly or through a stipend and draws on their experiences as a community member to serve as a liaison between those organizations and the community by engaging in outreach activities such as communicating public health and community response information, cultivating new channels to share information, and connecting people to appropriate health and social services; "disease prevention program" means a program that involves actions or efforts to reduce or eliminate exposure to risks that might increase the chances that an individual or a community will incur disease; and "health promotion program" means a program that engages and empowers individuals and communities to develop behaviors that improve and maintain an individual's health.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to remove the State Medicaid program from, and include the Work First New Jersey Program as one of the programs covered under, the requirements of the bill.

The committee amendments add the definition of "community outreach worker" to the provisions of the bill.

The committee amended the bill to eliminate the requirement that prohibits the department to include any income earned in supporting a

health promotion or disease prevention program as an hourly employee of a community-based organization, local health department, or other similar organization in determining an applicant's income eligibility, or re-determining a beneficiary's income eligibility, for the programs covered under the bill.

The committee amendments stipulate that a beneficiary's or applicant's earnings as a community outreach worker for a health promotion or disease prevention program are to be excluded when determining or re-determining income eligibility under the provisions of the bill and, that in determining an applicant's income eligibility, or re-determining a beneficiary's income eligibility for the NJ FamilyCare program, the Work First New Jersey Program, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the department is to exclude from the beneficiary's or applicant's income the first \$5,000 earned during a calendar year. Currently, the bill does not specify the amount of a beneficiary's or an applicant's earnings that is to be excluded, or the time frame under which the income was earned, when determining or re-determining income eligibility for the programs covered under the bill.

The committee amended the bill to make technical corrections to the synopsis and title to reflect the changes made to the bill's provisions.

The committee amendments make technical changes to various provisions of the bill involving punctuation.