

# SENATE, No. 3035

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator RENEE C. BURGESS**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes State SNAP Menstrual Hygiene Benefit Program; appropriates \$1 million to DHS.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/15/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning a monthly State benefit from menstrual hygiene  
2 products under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,  
3 supplementing Title 44 of the Revised Statutes, and making an  
4 appropriation.

5  
6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
7 *of New Jersey:*

8  
9 1. a. There is established in the Division of Family  
10 Development in the Department of Human Services the State SNAP  
11 Menstrual Hygiene Benefit Program. Under the program, the  
12 division shall distribute to each menstruator in an eligible SNAP  
13 household a monthly State benefit of \$14. The division shall  
14 distribute the monthly State benefit via the household's existing  
15 SNAP electronic benefits card, on the same issuance date as the  
16 household's standard SNAP benefits. A household shall be  
17 required to use any monthly State benefit issued pursuant to this  
18 section for menstrual hygiene products. Any unspent funds from a  
19 household's monthly State SNAP Menstrual Hygiene Benefit shall  
20 be carried over to the next month, for use by the household for the  
21 same purpose.

22 b. As used in this section,  
23 "Menstrual hygiene products" means tampons, menstrual cups,  
24 or sanitary napkins used to collect or absorb menstrual fluids.  
25 "SNAP" means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
26 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal "Food and  
27 Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).  
28

29 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
30 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
31 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to  
32 implement the provisions of this act.  
33

34 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division  
35 of Family Development in the Department of Human Services  
36 \$1,000,000 to effectuate the provisions of this act.  
37

38 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
39 next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioner of  
40 Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in  
41 advance thereof as may be necessary for the implementation of this  
42 act.  
43

44 STATEMENT

45  
46 This bill establishes the State SNAP Menstrual Hygiene Benefit  
47 Program in the Division of Family Development in the Department  
48 of Human Services, and makes an appropriation to support the

1 program. SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is a  
2 nutrition assistance program that serves as a safety net for low-  
3 income households. The federal government provides 100 percent  
4 of the funds for the standard SNAP benefit for all enrollees, and  
5 prohibits the use of benefits to purchase menstrual hygiene  
6 products. This bill, in using State funds to provide a menstrual  
7 hygiene product benefit, aims to circumvent the federal prohibition  
8 in order to help address “period poverty” in New Jersey. Period  
9 poverty, an invisible form of poverty that affects over 22 million  
10 people in the United States, is the inability to afford or access the  
11 necessary menstrual products needed to manage a period. Recent  
12 studies show that 2 in 5 people who menstruate experience period  
13 poverty.

14 Under the program, the division is to distribute to each  
15 menstruator in an eligible SNAP household a monthly State benefit  
16 of \$14. The division is required to distribute the monthly State  
17 benefit via the household’s existing SNAP electronic benefits card,  
18 on the same issuance date as the household’s standard SNAP  
19 benefits. A household is required to use any monthly State benefit  
20 issued pursuant to this bill for menstrual products. Any unspent  
21 funds from a household’s monthly State SNAP Menstrual Hygiene  
22 Benefit is to be carried over to the next month, for use by the  
23 household for the same purpose. The bill defines “menstrual  
24 hygiene products” to mean tampons, menstrual cups, or sanitary  
25 napkins used to collect or absorb menstrual fluids.