

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 3035

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2023

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably, and with committee amendments, Senate Bill No. 3035.

This bill, as amended, establishes the State Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) Menstrual Hygiene Benefit Program and the State WFNJ Diaper Benefit Program in the Division of Family Development in the Department of Human Services, and makes a \$2.5 million appropriation to support the programs. WFNJ is the State's cash assistance program for low-income residents.

Under the State WFNJ Menstrual Hygiene Program, the division is to distribute to each person who menstruates participating in WFNJ, ages 18 to 50 years, a monthly State benefit of \$14. Under the State WFNJ Diaper Benefit Program, the division is to distribute to each person participating in WFNJ a monthly State benefit of \$30 for each dependent of the person who is under 36 months of age.

The division is required to distribute the monthly State benefit under both programs via the participant's WFNJ electronic benefits card, on the same issuance date as the participant's standard WFNJ benefits. A participant is required to use any monthly State benefit issued pursuant to this bill for the purposes of the program. Any unspent funds from a participant's monthly menstrual hygiene benefit or diaper benefit is to be carried over to the next month, for use by the participant for the same purpose. The bill defines "menstrual hygiene products" to mean tampons, menstrual cups, or sanitary napkins used to collect or absorb menstrual fluids.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments revise the bill to provide that the menstrual hygiene benefit established under the bill will be available to individuals participating in the Work First New Jersey Program, instead of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as was provided in the bill as introduced. In addition, the committee amendments limit the menstrual hygiene benefit to individuals who are 18 to 50 years of age; as introduced the bill applied no age limit to the benefit.

The committee amendments establish the State WFNJ Diaper Benefit Program in the Division of Family Development in the Department of Human Services, providing a monthly State benefit of \$30 for each dependent of a WFNJ participant who is under 36 months of age.

The committee amendments increase the appropriation made under the bill from \$1 million to \$2.5 million.