

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 201**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
214th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JULY 7, 2011

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Ruiz and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Overrides Governor's line-item veto reducing Fiscal Year 2012 appropriation for Payments for Cost of General Assistance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/12/2011)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** overriding a line-item veto of a
2 Fiscal Year 2012 appropriation for Payments for Cost of General
3 Assistance in the Department of Human Services.

4
5 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
6 General Assembly concurring):

7
8 1. That the following line-item of appropriation, on page 121
9 of Senate Bill No. 4000 of 2011 (P.L.2011, c.85) which was the
10 subject of objection by the Governor in the Governor’s veto
11 statement of June 30, 2011, be restored to law as follows, the
12 objections thereto of the Governor notwithstanding:

13
54 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

50 Economic Planning, Development, and Security

53 Economic Assistance and Security

7550 Division of Family Development

STATE AID

15-7550 Income Maintenance Management \$19,572,000

State Aid:

15 Payments for Cost of General
Assistance (\$19,572,000)

14
15 2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution
16 be delivered to the Governor, the State Treasurer, and the
17 Commissioner of Human Services.

18
19
20 **STATEMENT**

21
22 This resolution restores the \$19,572,000 appropriation in the
23 Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 appropriations act for Payments for Cost of
24 General Assistance that the Governor cut by force of a line-item
25 veto.

26 In the FY 2012 appropriations act, the Legislature added
27 \$31,566,000 to the \$91,867,000 the Governor had recommended in
28 the Governor’s FY 2012 Budget for Payments for Cost of General
29 Assistance. The increase was warranted as the Legislature
30 disagreed with the Governor’s recommendation that the FY 2012
31 monthly cash benefit level under the General Assistance program be
32 reduced by \$15 from the FY 2011 level; that no funds be expended
33 for supplemental living support payments; and that individuals
34 applying for benefits as an unemployable recipient prove that they
35 are medically unable to work for six continuous months. In his
36 line-item veto, the Governor subsequently reduced the appropriation
37 by \$19,572,000 providing no indication of the source of the lower
38 expenditure expectation.

SCR201 STACK, CUNNINGHAM

1 The General Assistance program provides financial assistance
2 primarily to single persons and married couples without children
3 who are not eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
4 or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or whose application for
5 federal SSI or Social Security disability benefits is pending. In
6 December 2010, the State had 55,500 General Assistance recipients:
7 37,500 classified as employable and 18,000 classified as
8 unemployable. Because of the legislative action in the FY 2012
9 appropriations act, the FY 2012 General Assistance payment to
10 employable recipients will be \$140 instead of \$125 per month and
11 that to unemployable recipients will be \$210 instead of \$195 per
12 month. It is unclear, however, to what extent the Governor's line-
13 item veto would adversely impact this financially vulnerable
14 population.