

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 255

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2017

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Wisniewski and Assemblywoman Muoio**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges USDA to lower eligibility threshold for federal nutrition programs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/23/2017)**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Department  
2 of Agriculture to better serve children and increase funding  
3 available for school nutrition programs by lowering the  
4 eligibility threshold for federal nutrition programs.

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
7 Food and Nutrition Service administers several programs that  
8 provide healthy food to children including the National School  
9 Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care  
10 Food Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, the Special  
11 Milk Program, and the Summer Food Service Program; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Administered by state agencies, each of these programs  
13 helps fight hunger and obesity by reimbursing organizations such as  
14 schools, child care centers, and afterschool programs for providing  
15 healthy meals to children; and

16 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that 17.9 million households in the United  
17 States are food insecure, meaning they have difficulty at some time  
18 during the year providing enough food for all of their members due  
19 to lack of resources; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, 6.8 million households in the United States  
21 have very low food security, meaning food intake of some  
22 household members is reduced and normal eating patterns are  
23 disrupted at times during the year due to limited resources; and

24 **WHEREAS**, In New Jersey 1.15 million residents, including 375,000  
25 children, are food insecure; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Food insecurity is particularly devastating to children  
27 because proper nutrition is vital to a child's physical and mental  
28 health, academic achievement, and future economic prosperity; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The USDA Food and Nutrition Service programs can  
30 make all the difference to children, many of whom depend on these  
31 programs for their basic nutritional needs; and

32 **WHEREAS**, These federal nutrition programs can be offered in areas  
33 where more than 50 percent of the children are eligible for free or  
34 reduced price school meals; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Lowering the percentage in the definition to 40 percent  
36 would make thousands more children eligible to receive the  
37 nutritional assistance these programs provide; now, therefore,

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39 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
40 Jersey:

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42 1. This House respectfully urges the United States Department  
43 of Agriculture to increase the funding for, and availability of,  
44 school nutrition programs to children throughout the State by  
45 lowering the eligibility threshold for federal nutrition programs  
46 from 50 percent to 40 percent of children in an area being eligible  
47 to receive free or reduced price school meals.

1       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
2 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
3 President of the United States, the United States Secretary of  
4 Agriculture, the United States Secretary of Education, the Secretary  
5 of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the Commissioner of  
6 the New Jersey Department of Education, and every member of  
7 Congress elected from the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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12       This resolution respectfully urges the United States Department  
13 of Agriculture to increase the funding for, and availability of,  
14 school nutrition programs to children throughout the State by  
15 lowering the eligibility threshold for federal nutrition programs  
16 from 50 percent to 40 percent of children in an area being eligible  
17 to receive free or reduced price school meals.