

ASSEMBLY, No. 257

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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**Assemblyman Danielsen, Assemblywomen Murphy, McKnight, Lopez,
Downey and Vainieri Huttie**

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCA to provide certain information on low-income home energy assistance program, annually update its low-income home energy assistance program handbook, and provide quarterly training sessions on administering program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee with technical review.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the administration of the low-income home
2 energy assistance benefits program and supplementing chapter
3 27D of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The Department of Community Affairs shall establish a
9 schedule of days and hours of operation, a toll-free telephone
10 number, and a downloadable application on its Internet website to
11 facilitate the receipt of benefits under the federal Low Income
12 Home Energy Assistance Program, established pursuant to 42
13 U.S.C. s.8621 et seq.

14 b. The department shall prepare and annually update a
15 handbook containing the governing policies and eligibility
16 requirements for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance
17 Program. The department shall annually distribute copies of the
18 handbook and its updates to each agency designated by the
19 department to obtain, review, and process applications for benefits
20 under that program.

21 c. The department shall adopt training sessions regarding the
22 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that cover subjects
23 including, but not limited to, enrollment procedures, eligibility
24 requirements, and fraud detection. The training sessions shall be
25 provided on a quarterly basis and open to any agency that obtains,
26 reviews, and processes applications under that program.

27 d. (1) Each director, manager, supervisor, and employee of an
28 agency that obtains, reviews, and processes Low Income Home
29 Energy Assistance Program applications, who performs or
30 supervises such program work, shall read the annually updated
31 handbooks distributed by the department pursuant to subsection b.
32 of this section and shall comply with the policies and procedures set
33 forth therein for the applicable year.

34 (2) Each supervisor of an agency that obtains, reviews, and
35 processes Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
36 applications, who supervises such program work, shall attend the
37 quarterly training sessions provided by the department pursuant to
38 subsection c. of this section.

39 e. The department may disqualify an agency from serving as an
40 agency that obtains, reviews, and processes Low Income Home
41 Energy Assistance Program applications for failure to substantially
42 comply with the requirements of subsection d. of this section.

43 f. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall promulgate
44 rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
45 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), in order to effectuate
46 the provisions of this act.

47
48 2. This act shall take effect immediately.