

ASSEMBLY, No. 1003

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Houghtaling, Conaway, Assemblywomen McKnight, Lampitt, Lopez, Pinkin, Quijano, Assemblymen Schaer, Chiaravalloti and Assemblywoman Speight

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to develop outreach plan to inform certain students about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/10/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning students and the federal Supplemental Nutrition
2 Assistance Program, and supplementing Title 44 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Department of Human Services, in consultation with
9 the Secretary of Higher Education, shall develop a plan to increase
10 outreach efforts to students enrolled in institutions of higher
11 education in the State concerning the New Jersey Supplemental
12 Nutrition Assistance Program established pursuant to the “Food and
13 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).
14 The outreach efforts shall include compiling, preparing, and
15 disseminating information concerning the program’s eligibility
16 requirements as they pertain to such students, as well as program
17 benefits and application procedures.

18 b. The information shall be disseminated in a manner that
19 aligns with the services and programs that potentially eligible
20 students are likely to utilize or be enrolled in, including, but not
21 limited to, financial aid, federal- or State-financed work study,
22 campus childcare, employment and training programs that require
23 enrollment in an institution of higher education as a component of
24 the program, employment and training programs for low-income
25 households operated by the State or a local government, and
26 services or programs targeted to students with disabilities, students
27 who are employed, and non-traditional students.

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill requires the Department of Human Services, in
35 consultation with the Secretary of Higher Education, to develop a
36 plan to increase outreach efforts to students enrolled in institutions
37 of higher education or post-secondary education in the State
38 concerning the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
39 Program (NJ SNAP), which provides assistance to eligible low-
40 income families and individuals to purchase food. The outreach
41 efforts are to include compiling, preparing, and disseminating
42 information concerning the program’s eligibility requirements as
43 they pertain to students, program benefits and application
44 procedures.

45 The bill also requires that the information be disseminated in a
46 manner that aligns with the services and programs that potentially
47 eligible students are likely to utilize or be enrolled in, including, but
48 not limited to, financial aid, federal- or State-financed work study,

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1 campus childcare, employment and training programs that require
2 enrollment in an institution of higher education as a component of
3 the program, employment and training programs for low-income
4 households operated by the State or a local government, and
5 services or programs targeted to students with disabilities, students
6 who are employed, and non-traditional students.

7 Formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, SNAP benefits are
8 distributed to recipients through EBT cards, and may be used at a
9 network of grocery stores and farmers markets to purchase food.
10 The eligibility requirements for the program are largely set at the
11 federal level and are particularly detailed where it concerns
12 eligibility of college students. It is the sponsor's intent that this bill
13 increase awareness of SNAP among the population of students who
14 may be eligible for SNAP benefits but are unaware of the program's
15 existence or their potential eligibility.