

ASSEMBLY, No. 2571

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Thomson

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCA to verify income of low-income home energy assistance benefit applicants.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)

1 AN ACT requiring income verification for low-income home energy
2 assistance benefits and supplementing chapter 27D of Title 52 of
3 the Revised 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 Community Affairs shall verify that
9 applicants for benefits under the federal Low Income Home Energy
10 Assistance Program, established by 42 U.S.C. s.8621 et seq., meet
11 the applicable income requirements prior to awarding benefits under
12 the program, using appropriate data supplied by the Department of
13 Labor and Workforce Development and the Division of Taxation in
14 the Department of the Treasury.

15 b. The requirements of subsection a. of this section may be
16 satisfied by verifying the income of a portion of all applicants for
17 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program benefits on a
18 random or risk basis; provided, however, that the Department of
19 Community Affairs shall conduct an income verification review of
20 each applicant claiming to have no income.

21 c. The Department of Community Affairs may utilize a third-
22 party commercial consumer reporting agency, in accordance with
23 the federal "Fair Credit Reporting Act," 15 U.S.C. s.1681 et seq.,
24 for the purpose of acquiring an applicant's necessary income
25 information, required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

26 d. The Commissioner of Community Affairs, in consultation
27 with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and
28 the Director of the Division of Taxation, shall promulgate rules and
29 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
30 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), in order to effectuate the
31 provisions of this section.

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33 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
34 next following enactment, except the commissioner may take any
35 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
36 for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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41 This bill requires the Department of Community Affairs (DCA)
42 to verify the income of applicants for Low Income Home Energy
43 Assistance Program (LIHEAP) benefits before awarding benefits
44 under LIHEAP. The bill requires the DCA to cross-check
45 applicants with income data supplied by both the Department of
46 Labor and Workforce Development and the Division of Taxation in
47 the Department of the Treasury before awarding LIHEAP benefits.
48 This bill also permits the DCA to utilize a third-party commercial

1 consumer reporting agency, in accordance with the federal “Fair
2 Credit Reporting Act,” for the purpose of acquiring an applicant’s
3 necessary income information. The cross-check required by this
4 bill may be made on a random or risk basis, except that every
5 applicant claiming to have no income is to be subjected to an
6 income verification review.