

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2653

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DHS to ensure that expedited benefits under Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are made available to certain households.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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

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

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8       1. As used in this act:

9       "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

10       "Community shelter for victims of domestic violence" means  
11       "community shelter for victims of domestic violence" as defined in  
12       section 2 of P.L.1978, c.159 (C.40:55D-66.2).

13       "County welfare agency" means a county welfare agency or  
14       board of social services.

15       "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

16       "Residential substance use disorders treatment facility" means a  
17       facility regulated by the department pursuant to P.L.1970,  
18       c.334 (C.26:2G-21 et seq.).

19       "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" or "SNAP" means  
20       the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, established  
21       pursuant to the "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246  
22       (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

23

24       2. a. The Department of Human Services shall ensure that an  
25       expedited application for benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition  
26       Assistance Program is made available to eligible households, by  
27       utilizing procedures adopted by regulation of the commissioner that  
28       expedite the issuance of benefits for:

29       (1) a household with less than \$150 in monthly gross income,  
30       provided that the liquid resources of the household do not exceed  
31       \$100;

32       (2) a migrant or seasonal farm worker household that is  
33       destitute, as defined by regulation of the commissioner, provided  
34       that the household's liquid resources do not exceed \$100; and

35       (3) an eligible household that has combined monthly gross  
36       income and liquid resources that are less than the monthly rent or  
37       mortgage payment plus utility expenses of the household.

38       b. The calculations made pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), and  
39       (3) of subsection a. of this section shall be made in accordance with  
40       regulations adopted by the commissioner.

41       c. A household that is certified to receive SNAP benefits on an  
42       expedited basis pursuant to this section shall be assigned a  
43       minimum certification period of two calendar months.

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45       3. a. For a household that is entitled to expedited processing of  
46       an application for benefits under section 2 of this act, the county  
47       welfare agency administering the SNAP program shall make the  
48       SNAP benefits available to the household no later than the seventh

1 calendar day following the date on which an application was filed  
2 for those benefits.

3 b. For an applicant who is a resident of a residential substance  
4 use disorders treatment facility, community shelter for victims of  
5 domestic violence, or other group living arrangement as provided  
6 for by regulation of the commissioner, who is entitled to expedited  
7 processing of an application for benefits under section 2 of this act,  
8 the county welfare agency administering the SNAP program shall  
9 make the SNAP benefits available to the resident no later than the  
10 seventh calendar day following the date on which an application  
11 was filed for those benefits.

12 c. For a resident of a public institution who applies for the  
13 federal Supplemental Security Income program under the Social  
14 Security Administration's Prerelease Program for the  
15 Institutionalized, benefits under the SNAP program shall be made  
16 available to the resident within seven calendar days following the  
17 date of the resident's release from the institution.

18 d. (1) If a household is entitled to expedited processing of an  
19 application for benefits under section 2 of this act, and also  
20 qualifies for a waiver of an in-office interview under regulations  
21 adopted by the commissioner, the county welfare agency shall,  
22 unless unable to reach the household, conduct a home interview,  
23 complete the application, and make SNAP benefits available to the  
24 household no later than the seventh calendar day following the date  
25 on which the application was filed for those benefits.

26 (2) If the application is not complete and the county welfare  
27 agency conducts a telephone interview and needs to mail the  
28 application to the household for signature, the mailing time, defined  
29 as the days the application is in the mail to and from the household  
30 and the days the application is in the household's possession  
31 pending signature and mailing, shall not be counted toward meeting  
32 the requirement to make SNAP benefits available no later than the  
33 seventh calendar day following the date on which an application  
34 was filed for those benefits.

35 e. If a household is initially determined not to be entitled to an  
36 expedited application for benefits pursuant to section 2 of this act,  
37 and the county welfare agency subsequently determines that the  
38 household is entitled to an expedited application for SNAP benefits,  
39 the county welfare agency shall process the application for benefits  
40 within the seven calendar days specified in this section, which shall  
41 begin on the date that the household was determined by the county  
42 welfare agency to be entitled to the expedited processing of its  
43 application.

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45 4. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the  
46 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-  
47 1 et seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the  
48 purposes of this act; except that, notwithstanding any provision of

1 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to the contrary, the  
2 commissioner may adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office  
3 of Administrative Law, such regulations as the commissioner deems  
4 necessary to implement the provisions of this act, which shall be  
5 effective for a period not to exceed six months and may thereafter  
6 be amended, adopted or re-adopted by the commissioner in  
7 accordance with the requirements of P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-  
8 1 et seq.).

9  
10 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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13 STATEMENT

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15 This bill provides that the Department of Human Services is to  
16 ensure that an expedited application for benefits under the  
17 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program,  
18 formerly known as the Food Stamp program, is made available to  
19 certain households, by utilizing procedures that expedite the  
20 issuance of benefits for: 1) a household with less than \$150 in  
21 monthly gross income, provided that the liquid resources of the  
22 household do not exceed \$100; 2) a migrant or seasonal farm  
23 worker household that is destitute, as defined by regulation of the  
24 commissioner, provided that the household's liquid resources do not  
25 exceed \$100; and 3) an eligible household with combined monthly  
26 gross income and liquid resources that are less than the monthly  
27 rent or mortgage payment plus utility expenses of the household.  
28 These SNAP benefits are to be provided for a minimum period of  
29 two calendar months.

30 The bill also specifies the particulars for making the benefits  
31 available. For a household that is entitled to expedited processing  
32 of an application, the county welfare agency administering the  
33 SNAP program is to make the benefits available no later than the  
34 seventh calendar day following the date on which an application  
35 was filed for those benefits. Similarly, for an applicant who is a  
36 resident of a substance use disorders treatment facility, community  
37 shelter for victims of domestic violence, or other group living  
38 arrangement, benefits are also to be made available no later than the  
39 seventh calendar day following the date on which an application  
40 was filed. In the case of a resident of a public institution who  
41 applies for the federal Supplemental Security Income program  
42 under the Social Security Administration's Prerelease Program for  
43 the Institutionalized, SNAP benefits are to be made available within  
44 seven calendar days following the date of the resident's release from  
45 the institution.

46 Lastly, if a household is initially determined not to be entitled to  
47 an expedited application for SNAP benefits, and the county welfare  
48 agency subsequently determines that the household is entitled to an

1 expedited application for benefits, the county welfare agency is to  
2 process the application within the seven calendar days specified in  
3 the bill, which would begin on the date that the household was  
4 determined by the county welfare agency to be entitled to the  
5 expedited processing of its application.