

ASSEMBLY, No. 2969

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for drug testing of adult recipients of Work First New Jersey program benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the Work First New Jersey program and
2 supplementing P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-44 et seq.).
3

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

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The use of random drug testing for adult recipients of
9 benefits under the Work First New Jersey program, and the
10 enrollment of those individuals who have a substance abuse
11 problem in an approved treatment program, will enhance the efforts
12 of this State to assist families in need of both economic and social
13 supports to improve their condition and remove barriers to
14 employment and the achievement of economic self-sufficiency;

15 b. These measures will conduce to the safety of children of
16 drug-addicted parents who are at risk for suffering child abuse and
17 neglect and are more likely to abuse drugs than children in other
18 households; and

19 c. This bill will fulfill the State's responsibility to assist those
20 persons who are facing drug-related barriers to employment as part
21 of its effort to strengthen families and help everyone who is able to
22 work to find a job and develop the economic and social skills to be
23 a productive member of society.
24

25 2. a. An adult recipient of benefits under the Work First New
26 Jersey program, on or after the effective date of this act, shall be
27 subject to random drug testing in a manner to be prescribed by
28 regulation of the Commissioner of Human Services.

29 b. The program shall assume the cost of such testing.

30 c. A person's eligibility for benefits under the Work First New
31 Jersey program or any other program of public assistance shall not
32 be dependent upon the results of such testing; however, based upon
33 those results, the commissioner may condition eligibility for
34 benefits under the Work First New Jersey program upon the
35 person's completion of a drug treatment program approved by the
36 commissioner.
37

38 3. The Commissioner of Human Services, as soon as is
39 practicable after the date of enactment of this act, shall apply for
40 any federal waivers that the commissioner determines are required
41 to implement the provisions of this act.
42

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

