

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3795

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 29 (Essex)**

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**SYNOPSIS**

Requires standard certification period of 12 and 24 months, under certain circumstances, within SNAP.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
2 Assistance Program certification period and supplementing Title  
3 44 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 Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a  
9 standard certification period of 12 months within SNAP, except that  
10 the certification period shall be 24 months if all adult household  
11 members are elderly or disabled provided that all certified  
12 households shall have contact with a State SNAP administering  
13 agency at least once every 12 months.

14 b. The Commissioner shall apply to the Food and Nutrition  
15 Service within the United States Department of Agriculture for any  
16 necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of this  
17 section.

18 c. As used in this section:

19 “Certification period” means the period for which households  
20 shall be eligible to receive SNAP benefits.

21 “Elderly or disabled” means the same as defined in section 3 of  
22 the federal “Food and Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7  
23 U.S.C. s.2012).

24 “SNAP” means the New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition  
25 Assistance Program, established pursuant to the federal “Food and  
26 Nutrition Act of 2008,” Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

27  
28 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
29 regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”  
30 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to  
31 implement the provisions of this act.

32  
33 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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36 STATEMENT

37

38 This bill requires a standard certification period of 12 and 24  
39 months, under certain circumstances, within the New Jersey  
40 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In doing so,  
41 this bill provides for the longest certification periods allowed under  
42 federal regulation. SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp  
43 Program, is a nutrition assistance program that serves as a safety net  
44 for low-income households. The certification period is the period  
45 for which households are eligible to receive SNAP benefits.  
46 Households may receive benefits beyond the certification period;  
47 however, the SNAP recipient must first submit certain  
48 documentation to a State administering agency to demonstrate

1 eligibility. It is the sponsor's goal that standardizing the  
2 certification period to the maximum length allowed will ease some  
3 of the administrative burden on SNAP recipients imposed by the  
4 certification process.

5 Currently, pursuant to N.J.A.C.10:87-6.20, county welfare  
6 agencies (CWAs), the administering agencies for SNAP, are  
7 required to certify each eligible household for a definite period of  
8 time that cannot exceed 12 month, except for households in which  
9 all adult members are elderly or disabled, which are to be certified  
10 for up to 24 months with at least one CWA contact every 12  
11 months. As such, New Jersey CWAs issue four, six, 12, and 24-  
12 month certification periods.

13 Under the bill, the Commissioner of Human Services is directed  
14 to establish a standard certification period of 12 months within  
15 SNAP, except that the certification period shall be 24 months if all  
16 adult household members are elderly or disabled provided that all  
17 certified households shall have contact with a State SNAP  
18 administering agency at least once every 12 months. As defined  
19 under the bill, elderly or disabled means the same as defined in the  
20 "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011  
21 et seq.), the enabling federal legislation for SNAP. Generally,  
22 elderly and disabled includes an individual who is 60 years of age  
23 or older; receives supplemental security income benefits or some  
24 other federally or State administered supplemental assistance; or  
25 receives Social Security disability insurance benefits.