

ASSEMBLY, No. 5880

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DHS to develop mobile software program for SNAP recipients.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/14/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning a mobile software program for New Jersey
2 Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program recipients and
3 supplementing Title 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. As used in this act:

9 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

10 "Electronic benefit transfer card or benefit card" means a benefit
11 card utilized by a consumer to gain access to nutrition assistance
12 program benefits.

13 "Mobile software program" means a computer program or
14 software application designed to be downloaded onto and used in
15 conjunction with a mobile electronic communication device, as
16 defined herein, and available through multiple software platforms.

17 "Mobile electronic communication device" means any mobile
18 device capable of communication or other transmission of
19 information and includes, but is not limited to, a cellular telephone,
20 wireless tablet, or other device with Internet capability, or other
21 wireless communication device.

22 "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" or "SNAP" means
23 the supplemental nutrition assistance program, established pursuant
24 to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008," Pub.L.88-525
25 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

26
27 2. a. The Department of Human Services shall develop and
28 maintain, or enter into or modify an agreement with a third party to
29 develop and maintain, a mobile software program for SNAP
30 recipients. The mobile software program shall include, but not be
31 limited to, functionality that allows a user of the mobile software
32 program who is recipient of SNAP benefits to:

33 (1) view the user's SNAP case status and the current benefits
34 the user receives;

35 (2) view the current balance on the user's electronic benefit
36 transfer card;

37 (3) request an electronic benefit transfer card or a replacement
38 card and track the card's expected time of arrival by mail;

39 (4) upload and submit required documents for continued
40 participation in SNAP and track the current processing status of
41 those documents;

42 (5) receive alerts for upcoming SNAP appointments and
43 important deadlines or actions;

44 (6) read and print notices and letters;

45 (7) update contact information;

46 (8) request to have a letter mailed to the user listing the amount
47 of benefits the user receives; and

48 (9) view local contact information for the County Board of
49 Social Services for the county in which the user resides.

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1 b. The mobile software program shall be made available free of
2 charge and in multiple languages.

3
4 3. The commissioner shall apply for any:

5 a. waivers from the federal government, which are necessary
6 for the approval and implementation of this act; and

7 b. grants through the SNAP Process and Technology
8 Improvement Grants program within the United States Department
9 of Agriculture to receive federal funding to implement the
10 provisions of this act.

11
12 4. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
13 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
14 1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the
15 provisions of this act.

16
17 5. This act shall take effect immediately.
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20 STATEMENT

21
22 This bill requires the Department of Human Services to develop
23 and maintain, or enter into or modify an agreement with a third
24 party to develop and maintain, a mobile software program for
25 SNAP recipients.

26 The mobile software program will include, but not be limited to,
27 functionality that allows a user of the mobile software program who
28 is a recipient of SNAP benefits to: view the user’s SNAP case
29 status and the current benefits the user receives; view the current
30 balance on the user’s electronic benefit transfer card; request an
31 electronic benefit transfer card or a replacement card and track the
32 card’s expected time of arrival by mail; upload and submit required
33 documents for continued participation in SNAP and track the
34 current processing status of those documents; receive alerts for
35 upcoming SNAP appointments and important deadlines or actions;
36 read and print notices and letters; update contact information;
37 request to have a letter mailed to the user listing the amount of
38 benefits the user receives; and view local contact information for
39 the County Board of Social Services for the county in which the
40 user resides. The mobile software program will also be required to
41 be made available free of charge and in multiple languages.

42 The bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to apply
43 for any: 1) waivers from the federal government, which are
44 necessary for approval and implementation of this act; and 2) grants
45 through the SNAP Process and Technology Improvement Grants
46 program within the United States Department of Agriculture to
47 receive federal funding to implement the provisions of bill.