

SENATE, No. 1131

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE
District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State to pledge to ensure availability of job training or similar activities to certain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients to prevent loss of benefits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
2 Employment and Training Program and supplementing Title 44
3 of 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. As used in this section:
9 “Able-bodied adults without dependents” has the same meaning
10 as set forth in 7 CFR 273.7.

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

14 b. A State SNAP Employment and Training Plan that is
15 submitted to the federal Food and Nutrition Service on or after the
16 effective date of this act shall include a pledge by the State to
17 ensure the availability of education, training, or workfare
18 opportunities that will permit participating able-bodied adults
19 without dependents to remain eligible for SNAP beyond the three-
20 month time limit for SNAP benefits established pursuant to 7
21 U.S.C. s.2015(d) and 7 CFR 273.24(f). The SNAP Employment
22 and Training Plan shall conform to all federal requirements in order
23 to qualify the State to receive additional federal funding as may be
24 available in relation to the provision of qualifying work activities to
25 able-bodied adults without dependents.

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27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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32 This bill would require the State to pledge to ensure the
33 availability of education, training, or workfare opportunities that
34 will permit certain participants in the Supplemental Nutrition
35 Assistance Program (SNAP, also called food stamps) to remain
36 eligible for benefits beyond the current three-month time limit.

37 Current federal rules establish a time limit of three months of
38 SNAP eligibility during any three-year period for “able-bodied
39 adults without dependents” or “ABAWDs” if they are unable to find
40 qualifying employment, education, job training, or workfare
41 activities. Historically, this time limit has generally been waived in
42 New Jersey in regions of the State with high unemployment;
43 however, the Department of Human Services declined to request
44 any such waivers for 2016, which may result in an estimated 11,000
45 individuals losing SNAP benefits. The State can help these
46 individuals avoid the loss of SNAP benefits, while simultaneously
47 preparing these individuals for long-term employment, by ensuring
48 the availability of qualifying education, training, or workfare

1 opportunities. By pledging to ensure this availability, the State
2 would also qualify to receive a portion of the \$20 million in federal
3 funds allocated for such “pledge states.”

4 The Department of Labor and Workforce Development currently
5 operates the SNAP Employment & Training Program, which is
6 funded with a combination of State and federal funds.