

SENATE, No. 1637

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCA to continuously maintain open enrollment period for federal Housing Choice Voucher Program pre-applications.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning pre-applications for certain State-administered
2 federal rental assistance and supplementing P.L.1966, c.293
3 (C.52:27D-1 et seq.).

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

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8 1. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall, to the extent
9 permitted by federal law, continuously maintain an open enrollment
10 period in which rental assistance applicants may submit pre-
11 applications to be placed on the waiting list for the federal Housing
12 Choice Voucher Program, authorized pursuant to section 8 of the
13 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. s.1437f), that is
14 administered by the department.

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16 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
17 next following enactment, except the commissioner may take any
18 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
19 for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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24 This bill would require the Department of Community Affairs to
25 continuously maintain an open enrollment period in which rental
26 assistance applicants may submit pre-applications to be placed on
27 the waiting list for the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program
28 administered by the department. Neither current federal nor State
29 law establishes a specific length of time that these open enrollment
30 periods must last. The department, however, has used its discretion
31 to limit these open enrollment periods to very short periods of time.
32 This bill would ensure that applicants for this rental assistance may
33 submit their pre-applications at any time, so that they do not lose
34 the opportunity to be placed on the waiting list simply for missing a
35 short window of time that the department happened to select.