

SENATE, No. 2178

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Repeals family cap in Work First New Jersey program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning public assistance benefits and repealing section
2 7 of P.L.1997, c.38.

3

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

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7 1. Section 7 of P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-61) is repealed.

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9 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply for such
10 State plan amendments as may be necessary to implement the
11 provisions of this act and to secure federal financial participation
12 for State expenditures under the federal Temporary Assistance to
13 Needy Families program.

14

15 3. The Commissioner of Human Services, in accordance with
16 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
17 et seq.), shall adopt such rules and regulations as the commissioner
18 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

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20 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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23 STATEMENT

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25 This bill repeals section 7 of the "Work First New Jersey Act,"
26 which prohibits a household from gaining additional cash assistance
27 benefits as a result of the birth of a child. Such policies that prevent
28 an increase in welfare benefits as a result of the birth of a child are
29 commonly known as "family caps."

30 The Work First New Jersey – Temporary Assistance to Needy
31 Families (TANF) program provides cash and other assistance to low
32 income families with dependent children. The amount of monthly
33 cash assistance provided to a household by the program is based on
34 the household's size. However, current law prevents the amount of
35 the grant from increasing as the result of the birth of a child, unless
36 the child is born fewer than 10 months after applying for benefits or
37 the birth of the child is a result of rape or incest. Certain limited
38 exceptions to the family cap are provided pursuant to
39 N.J.A.C.10:90-2.18 for families with a working parent and for
40 children born to minors.